

٥٣ من الأصل

# THE TIMES

No. 65,779

MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

TODAY

10P

STARTING TODAY: THE DISCOVERY DIET GUIDE

DAY 1 of how to stay healthy, slim and stress-free  
PLUS:  
enjoy up to 6 free days at a health club  
VOUCHER PAGE 37

14 PAGES

OF SPORT

TODAY

10P

THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY  
Manchester United march over Tottenham PLUS FA Cup fourth round draw PAGE 23

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY

Every day this week how to get fit for life

MELVYN BRAGG

Starts the arts week Page 16

PLUS Matthew Paris Page 18



TOMORROW

ALTERED IMAGE How to change your body shape

PLUS Interactive Team Football and Libby Purves

WEDNESDAY

NIGELLA LAWSON

On contemporary life

PLUS Times critics on spring's hot tickets

How to combat the stress factor

THURSDAY

FILMS Barbra Streisand's double act

PLUS Best for books Best for jobs

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the food we eat

FRIDAY

KICKING AND SCREAMING Lynne Truss back on the terraces

PLUS David Sinclair on pop

How homoeopathy can work for you

SATURDAY

THE FOREVER GIRL Julia Neuberger on the enduring power of Anne Frank

WEEKEND

PLUS: THE MAGAZINE CAR 97. WEEKEND MONEY, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS AND YOUR 7-DAY TV, SATELLITE AND RADIO GUIDE IN THE DIRECTORY

02  
TV & RADIO 42-43  
WEATHER 22  
CROSSWORD 22-44

LETTERS 19  
OBITUARIES 21  
PETER RIDDELL 18

ARTS 16, 17  
CHESS & BRIDGE 36  
COURT & SOCIAL 20

SPORT 23-36  
MIND & MATTER 14  
BUSINESS 38-42, 44



ANGlia PRESS AGENCY

## Gay sex claims overshadow Tory election campaign launch

BY ARTHUR LEATLEY, JOANNA BALE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

ALLEGATIONS of an illegal relationship with a homosexual teenager yesterday put the future of a Conservative MP in doubt and marred John Major's launch of an election campaign that could last up to four months.

After Mr Major unleashed a ferocious attack on the opposition parties' plans for constitutional change, senior Conservatives were last night urging Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, to go quickly and quietly to avoid further embarrassment to the Prime Minister's crusade to put the family at the heart of Tory policy-making.

Mr Major was questioned about the accusations during his first interview of the election year, and last night he and senior ministers were reported to be inclined that a new attempt to revive Tory fortunes had been overshadowed by another sex scandal involving a Tory MP.

Mr Hayes, 43, who is married with two children, denied any sexual relationship with Paul Stone, who was 18 when their friendship began. A constituency official disclosed that Mr Hayes had confessed to him that he had been in danger of developing "homosexual" feelings for the teenager.

Mr Stone is understood to have received £75,000 for selling his claims to *The News of the World* through the publicist Max Clifford. The paper first learnt of the story on Christmas Eve. The full age of consent was 21.

The episode is an embarrassment to the Tories who will today launch an expensive advertising campaign against Labour, with the slogan "New Labour, New Failure". The theme is that a Labour government "would all end in tears".

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "I said a couple of

days ago that John Major's new push on family values was bound to end in tears and it has."

Harlow is one of the Tories' more vulnerable seats — Mr Hayes had a majority of 2,940 at the last election — and constituency officers are to meet the MP shortly to discuss his future. A full meeting of the executive committee will be held in two weeks.

Mr Hayes is not a minister and his fate therefore rests with the association rather than with the Cabinet or Conservative Central Office. But senior Tories said that

he would best serve Mr Major by not standing at the election and allowing his constituency to pick a replacement. This is what ministers expect to happen.

Mr Major declined to comment on the allegations when he began his new year fightback on BBC Television's *Breakfast With Frost*. The Prime Minister mounted a fierce onslaught against Labour and the Liberal Democrats after indications yesterday that they were close to a deal on constitutional reform, including abolition of voting rights for hereditary peers and

plans for a Scottish parliament. Mr Major put himself at the forefront of his party's campaign, announcing a series of national news conferences before the election to ensure that his views got across to voters.

His overall message was of the

"fundamental differences" between the Tories and Labour on issues such as Europe, the economy and the constitution and the risk Labour would pose to years of Tory achievement. Britain's prospects were good, Mr Major said. Was now the time for voters to take a "leap into the dark" to

something wholly unknown and inexperienced?

David Roberts, chairman of the Harlow association, confirmed that he had requested a meeting with Mr Hayes but he voiced his support for the MP. "I spoke briefly to Jerry last night. The comments that I have had from other members have been very supportive. He is a very good constituency MP and he works very hard for the town."

"People do have feelings for other people. In this case, Jerry said he accepted that those feelings were perhaps in danger of becoming unhealthy and it stopped at that point. There was nothing sexual."

Simon Carter, chairman of the Conservative political committee at Harlow and former leader of the Tory group on the district Council, said: "With John Major's recent announcement about family values, I was not surprised that one of the tabloids came up with something like this. Jerry says nothing untoward happened and we believe him."

Pact negotiations, page 2  
Career in jeopardy, page 3

### Sinn Fein leaders in IRA video

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
CAIRBREATH CORRESPONDENT

A NEW IRA propaganda video — designed to bolster support for the terrorists' campaign of violence after the collapse of their ceasefire — features footage of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness.

The two men, who have consistently denied that they are IRA leaders, appear on the 55-minute video sandwiched between lengthy shots of masked terrorists firing automatic rifles and mortar bombs.

Mr Adams, 48, president of Sinn Fein, is shown giving a clenched fist salute at a republican rally in Belfast in a section of the video covering the 1994 IRA ceasefire. He and Mr McGuinness, 46, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, then make two further appearances in a section of the tape in which they blame Britain for the collapse of the ceasefire in February last year. The producers of the tape, entitled *IRA in our Streets and in our Countryside*, pirated interviews with the Sinn Fein leaders from the BBC and Ulster Television.

The disclosure of the tape's existence by *The Times* led to calls last night for Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness to be arrested and charged with IRA membership. Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said the Government had no excuse for failing to crack down on the two men because the video clearly identified them as IRA leaders, means sponsorship, and naming a

### Mandela ousted as student bar hero

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

NELSON MANDELA is losing his status as an icon for youth. Two-thirds of student unions have dropped his name from their bars or buildings in favour of more trendy heroes, including Des Lynam, Freddie Mercury and Oasis.

At the peak of his fame as a *cause célèbre*, the South African President was adopted by at least 30 universities. But he has been dropped in favour of Des Lynam, the BBC presenter, as the figure-head of Warwick University's bar as students want to attract more sports players.

Both Coventry and Leicester universities now have Oasis instead of Mandela bars. Ryan Fay, president at Coventry, said students had not forgotten Mr Mandela. He said there was "a time and a place for politics" and Oasis, the band of the decade, was a more suitable name for a bar.

The Nelson Mandela Ballroom at Durham University was renamed after Margot Fonteyn two years ago and a Mandela room at Exeter has become the Freddie Mercury Suite in honour of the late lead singer of Queen.

Mr Mandela's name now survives at only 11 student venues, and several of them are likely to expunge him this year.

Some students believe idealism is being replaced by business realities. Tom Wilcox, vice-president at Queen Mary's College, London, said students were more concerned with standards of service, not political issues. "That means sponsorship, and naming a

room after a sponsor is the best way to generate revenue."

But there is some hope for a comeback by the South African leader at Oxford, where the Mandela bar was recently restored by New College after several years as the Joanna Lumley Room. At Bristol, students defeated a motion to rename its Mandela Bar as Noel Edmonds Imbibing Suite.

Mandela is also preserved at the National Union of Students' headquarters in London. A spokeswoman said: "There are no plans to change the name of the building. Nelson Mandela was very important to the student movement. He is our honorary president."

Leading article, page 19



... left at the Nelson Mandela building, no. the er Joanne Lumley ... oops, no, the Oasis building"

### Henman loses to Courier in final

Tim Henman reached an ATP Tour final for the first time, in the Qatar Open in Doha, but was beaten by Jim Courier, the former world No 1, 7-5, 6-7, 6-2.

To put Henman's achievement into perspective, Courier, who has four grand-slam singles titles to his name, represented Henman's first serious challenge of the week. However, Henman appears to have lost none of the momentum he gathered in 1996. Page 25

### Vatican apologises to Jews for 'errors'

The Vatican is to apologise formally for the "anti-Semitic errors" of Catholicism as part of an attempt to reconcile Christianity, Judaism and Islam in time for the millennium.

A commission will examine the persecution of Jews by the Inquisition and Catholic attitudes towards Nazism. Page 9

### Belgrade paralysed

President Milosevic appeared to have lost control of the Serbian capital Belgrade as a cavalcade of cars and more than 100,000 pro-democracy demonstrators paralysed the city. Page 8

**PINK**  
Thomas Pink, Jermyn Street, LONDON

### Thomas Pink Sale

### Final Reductions

Last Day, Saturday 18th

85 Jermyn St, SW1  
35 Dover St, W1  
16 Blomfield St, EC2  
16 Cullum St, EC3  
44 Bow Lane, WC4  
82 Chancery Lane, WC2  
Drayton Gardens, SW10  
Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1  
Canary Wharf, E14  
32 Castle St, Edinburgh  
1 Royal Bank Place, Glasgow  
Heathrow Airport, Terminals 1, 3 & 4 - TAX FREE

Our Sale does not extend to Mail Order.  
For a copy of our Spring catalogue,  
please telephone 0171-498 3882

770140 046817

## Actors in Tory tear-jerker campaign are sworn to secrecy

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE "real people" at the heart of the Tories' new multi-million-pound poster campaign are not real at all, but are actors who have been forced by the party to sign a written undertaking not to reveal their true identities.

Stung by the publicity over their "Demon eyes" campaign last August, the Conservative Party and its advertising agency, M&C Saatchi, have gone to great lengths to ensure that the people used in their five new posters -- to be unveiled today under the theme that a Labour government "would all end in tears" -- remain nameless faces. The



One of the posters, shown in *The Mail on Sunday*

them that it would be for a Tory party campaign. They were shown everything all the way through. It was made a condition of the work that they would not reveal who

they were and we would not give out their identities."

One of the five posters shows a black and white photograph of a couple with haggard and downcast faces

holding a baby. A red tear trickles down the woman's face to illustrate the tears that supposedly would be shed under a Blair government. The slogan, emblazoned in red, reads: "New Labour ... New Failure".

The posters, to be splashed across 3,000 sites throughout the country over the next three weeks, mark the start of the Tory party's final big advertising push before the general election campaign. It comes 12 months to the day after the "Labour's tax bombshell" campaign, considered within the party to have been a great success.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said that the poster of the young couple "bordered on the edge of negative advertising". He added: "If the Tories want to debate whether that young couple would be better off after 18 years of Tory power, then we will be happy to debate issues. Eighteen years has left too many young couples in poverty and insecurity, with no possibility of change."

The man behind the latest

Tory campaign is Steve Hilton, 27, who works for Lord Saatchi. Mr Hilton, who was educated at public school and Oxford, is a keen fan of the pop groups Pulp and Oasis and refuses to wear a tie, even on visits to Downing Street.

Born in London, he spent

several years of his childhood in Hungary, where his late father was a professional sportsman, having been goal-keeper for the national ice hockey team.

He worked as a researcher for Conservative Central Office before the last general election and was recruited by Lord Saatchi shortly afterwards. In addition to working on commercial accounts such as British Airways, he has also been involved in political campaigns in Russia, Ireland and Portugal.

□ The brewer Guinness has withdrawn an advertisement which ran in the men's magazine *FHM*, showing a masked man in a leather jacket hang-

ing by chains from a ceiling under a portrait of John Major and next to a bowl of oranges. The opposite page carried the slogan: "A little bit of what you fancy does you good."

The picture could be seen as a reference to the death of Stephen Milligan, Tory MP for Eastleigh, who was found dead in his west London flat in 1994 with an orange in his mouth and a plastic bag over his head.

A spokesman for the Guinness group said that an internal inquiry would be held. "This particular advertisement causes offence and it is regrettable that it was ever shown in the first place."

## Major in adoption pledge to childless couples

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

CHILDLESS couples will find it easier to adopt babies from abroad after John Major yesterday promised to lift the obstacles imposed by "politically correct" social workers.

One hundred and fifty-five foreign children a year are being adopted in this country, according to Department of Health figures, although adoption agencies say inquiries about giving a home to Chinese orphans have trebled in the past year.

One of the major obstacles is the need for prospective adopters to convince social workers that they are suitable. Couples or individuals are obliged to approach their local council's "social services department and ask for a "home study" to prove they are worthy of adopting a child from abroad. The council is entitled to refuse. They are likely to be asked probing questions by social workers who want to know if they are sufficiently young, healthy and committed to their own relationship.

"The difficulties that are put in the way of international adoption, that is silly," Mr Major said on BBC Television's *Breakfast with Frost*. "There's still far too much politically correct practice in adoption. I find it unbelievable that a couple who wish to adopt and provide a loving home for a child should face some of the difficulties they do, that it is very difficult to adopt a child of a different race. Why should that be so?"

Mr Major promised a proper appeal system for couples refused adoption for "daft" reasons. It was nonsense to tell relatively young people they were too old to adopt. "Is it better for an orphan to have the loving environment of a couple who will care for him or her and cherish the child, or to remain institutionalised?"

The Prime Minister also promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a 14-year-old girl who

demanded to leave her parents' home after falling for an 18-year-old car thief. He said

there had been rather distressing cases of disputes between parents and children where social workers had intervened.

The Prime Minister also

promised to reform the Children Act, which gives children extra rights, following the case of a



# Universities set up special loan deal to attract students

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of universities is preparing its own student loans scheme to tempt scholars away from rivals and to curb the rising drop-out rate. A dozen institutions in the upper reaches of the research league table have formed a consortium with Midland Bank to offer an exclusive loan package to graduate students.

The Times understands other deals are being negotiated with private lenders. Vice-chancellors are also being urged to take over the Government's Student Loans Company when it is put out to tender this year to ensure that undergraduates get the best possible repayment terms.

The universities involved have 27,000 graduate students. They are Bath, Durham, East Anglia, Exeter, Essex, Reading, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, York and the London University Institute.

ties in the consortium are advising in all of their student recruitment publicity the existence of the scheme. It will be up to them whether to apply for a loan. If they do, they will talk to the Midland Bank."

The scheme, planned for October, will allow postgraduates seven years to repay loans of up to £10,000, or £5,000 for one-year courses. No payments would be due until six months after completing the course and would be at 2 per cent over base rate, or 1 per cent for selected subjects, including medicine and law.

Vernon Vandelin, Vice-Chancellor at Bath, said he could see the scheme being extended to undergraduates. "There was an obvious gap in the market for postgraduate students we thought we might be able to have some impact on. If an undergraduate came to us we would probably call up the local Midland Bank and say, 'We have this other student, could you extend the same deal to them?'

Students criticised the universities for acting in advance of the Dearing report and forecast that they would form a "super league". Ewan Jenkins, president of Durham Students' Union, said: "The fact that these loans are only available to students in a very small number of institutions takes us away from a mass participation system. They disregard the fact that ability to learn, not to pay, must be the predominant entrance factor for any course."

The association's annual survey showed, however, that more than a third of big recruiters said they could not find suitable graduates for scientific, engineering, research and development and technical jobs, particularly those in computing. The association, which represents employers as diverse as Marks & Spencer, Midland Bank, the Police Service and Unilever, said that it was difficult to find graduates in those areas with the right blend of technical and communication skills.

Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, said: "The number of traditional graduate jobs stayed the same almost throughout the recession, but the number of graduates coming out of the university system has doubled over the past five years. For the first

time since then, the number of vacancies is going up faster than the rate of increase in people looking for them. We are actually winning for the first time in five years."

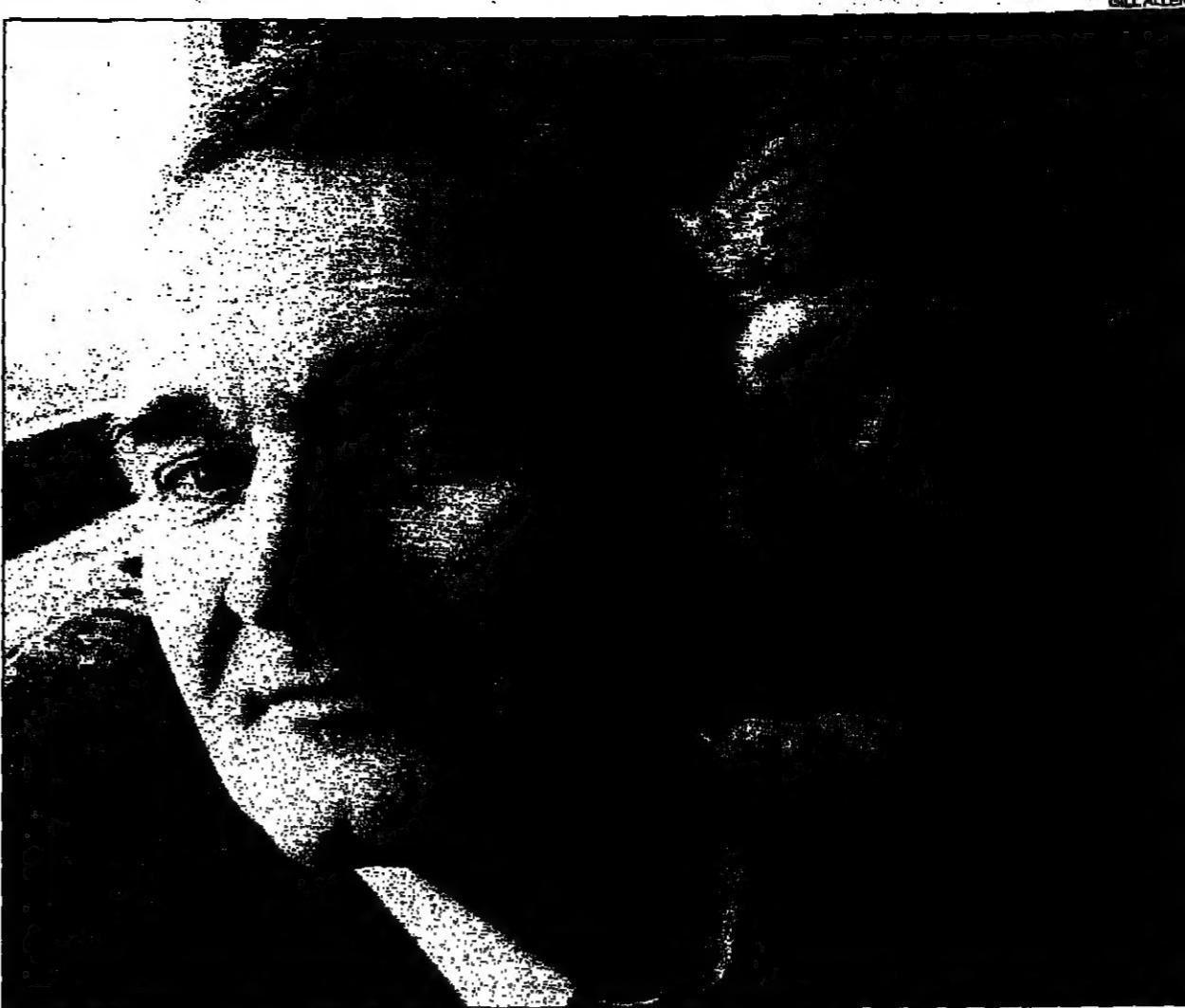
Students have had to battle hard for plum jobs during the 1990s, but the Association of Graduate Recruiters yesterday forecast an 11.5 per cent rise in vacancies. This summer's graduates who find a job will start on an average salary of £15,325, the association forecast. Starting pay rose by 4.4 per cent in 1996, compared with the rise in average earnings of 3.7 per cent, and is likely to increase by a similar amount this year.

Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, said: "The number of traditional graduate jobs stayed the same almost throughout the recession, but the number of graduates coming out of the university system has doubled over the past five years. For the first

time since then, the number of vacancies is going up faster than the rate of increase in people looking for them. We are actually winning for the first time in five years."

Call for universities to take over the Student Loans Company comes from academics at the LSE, the only institution so far to prepare course fees for 1998 entrants. Iain Crawford and Nicholas Barr, at the LSE's Centre for Education Research, estimate a takeover would cost each university £20,000, if the Government successfully sold off the company's existing £2 billion of debt.

Mr Crawford said: "Universities are the ideal bodies for administering student loans because they would always be motivated to act in the interests of the borrower."



David Jennings yesterday with his wife, Samantha. He says that his comments on Dunblane were misconstrued.

## Children need not fear me, says man accused of Dunblane threat

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE former soldier who allegedly threatened to "do a Dunblane" has decided not to challenge a High Court injunction that bars him from schools and council buildings. But, within hours of his release from jail, David Jennings renewed his long-running protest against Greenwich council in southeast London.

In a three-hour interview ending at 3.36am on the night he was freed, Jennings set out a litany of complaints about the care of four of his ten children. His comments raised fears among former neighbours that he would revive other grudges.

At a hearing in London today, at which the council will seek to make the injunction permanent, he hopes to read a statement to the judge saying that he never threatened to attack children. He will also offer an undertaking not to approach schools or council buildings.

The London Borough of Greenwich has gone completely off the rails, printing photographs of myself and sending them to every parent in Greenwich as if I was Jesse James," he said. "The matter has been blown out of all proportion."

**There was no way that I was ever going to go to any schools?**

Driven by a belief that the authorities failed to protect his children, Mr Jennings, 51, makes lengthy accusations of conspiracy against headteachers, foster parents, social workers, prison officers, magistrates and judges.

His solicitor has admitted that the Dunblane threat was made to a prison chaplain, but Jennings said that his words had been misconstrued. "There was no way that I was ever going to go to any schools, and that has been the case all the way along."

Jennings, who has a conviction for possessing a firearm in public, left Swaleside prison, Kent, on Friday. He has been staying at the home of his second wife, Samantha, 29, in Abbey Wood, southeast London.

He was jailed for affray in November 1995 after throwing rubble through the window of Peter Bailey, 34, his neighbour in nearby Eltham. He claimed that Mr Bailey had harassed his wife. Mr Bailey, recalled last night, having to dodge flying slabs, rocks and glass as he tried to protect his children and to call the police while Jennings broke every window at the rear of his house. "He is the sort of bloke who, if he gets pressurised, will do something violent," he said.

Other residents remembered Jennings as a "nightmare" council tenant. Mothers have since signed a petition demanding strong legal action and increased security at schools.

Jennings served as a private in the Middlesex Regiment from 1965 to 1968, but he denied reports that he had fired at his commanding officer in Guyana, saying the reverse was true. After leaving the Army he worked for two years as a motorcycle assembler for Norton, but was made redundant and has worked only occasionally since.

A spokeswoman for Greenwich Council said last night: "We would deny categorically any conspiracy against Mr Jennings. We shall be putting before the judge evidence which convinces us that we should be seeking this permanent injunction."

## Machete attack nurse returns

THE nursery nurse who fought off a machete attacker at an infants' school in Wolverhampton returns to work tomorrow.

Lisa Potts, 21, has visited the pupils at St Luke's Church of England school in Blakenhall since the attack last July but has not been well enough to resume teaching. She was praised by a judge for trying to protect the children as Horrett Campbell, a paranoid schizophrenic, lashed out at pupils, parents and staff with a 2ft machete. Last month Campbell was found guilty of seven charges of attempted murder. He is due to be sentenced next month.

Ms Potts suffered gashes to her arms and cuts to her back as she tried to shepherd the children inside the building. The three children injured in the attack returned to school in the autumn.

St Luke's reopened a week after the attack. Fences were set up around the school and security alarms issued to staff.

## Nurses' lawyers seek talks over withdrawn confessions

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND ROGER MAYNARD

THE two British nurses charged with murder in Saudi Arabia have withdrawn their confessions and an admission that one had an affair with the victim, Yvonne Gilford, their lawyers said yesterday.

After their first meeting with Saudi legal representatives since their arrest, Deborah Parry, 41, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, retracted the written statements sworn before three Saudi judges on December 23. The lawyers claimed yesterday that the admissions had been made only after police promised that they would be deported and would not face prosecution for the murder of Ms Gilford, 55, an Australian nurse at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran.

The women, both wearing the traditional Muslim chadar, met three Saudi lawyers, a British legal representative and a consultant for an hour in separate meetings at Damam central prison on Saturday.

The women, both wearing the traditional Muslim chadar, met three Saudi lawyers, a British legal representative and a consultant for an hour in separate meetings at Damam central prison on Saturday.

They are concerned that their case will be tarnished by reports in Saudi newspapers that they were arrested after being seen on video film at a shopping centre using Miss Gilford's charge cards.

The firm emphasised that both nurses had only recently arrived in Saudi Arabia and did not know Miss Gilford well, and had been "very confused and apprehensive" after their arrest. The lawyers would be discussing the retraction with the authorities as soon as possible.

Ms McLauchlan's brother, John, insisted yesterday that the family had confidence in the country's Sharia courts. "We are very grateful to the Saudi Arabian authorities for providing my sister with the best possible legal representation. We have faith in the Saudi justice system and we feel sure that Lucy will be found innocent of any crimes," he said. He also extended the family's sympathies to Miss Gilford's family.

## Princess's visit suggests royal thaw

BY ALAN HAMILTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales, is to visit Angola next week on behalf of the Red Cross, despite severing her connections with the charity at the time of last summer's divorce.

During her five-day visit, which has the approval of the Queen and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Princess will see a British operation to clear millions of landmines planted during the country's 20-year civil war. She will stay as a guest of the British Ambassador to the Angolan capital, Luanda.

The Princess stepped down from the British Red Cross after acting as patron during their 125th anniversary celebrations. Her decision to restore the link is understood to have been the result of a personal appeal from the film-maker Lord Attenborough. Approval from the Queen for the semi-official working visit is an indication that Buckingham Palace is keen to restore good relations

with the Princess now that her divorce is out of the way. Planned visits to other trouble spots, including Bosnia and Afghanistan, are likely to receive the Queen's approval.

Conscious of the damage done to the monarchy's reputation by the Wales' divorce, the Palace is keen to mend fences. An opinion poll com-

## Le Shuttle resumes services for coach travellers

BY A STAFF REPORTER

COACH traffic will be allowed back on Le Shuttle trains from today.

Travellers will, however, have to reserve places in advance on the limited number of services running between Folkestone and Calais since the blaze on a freight shuttle in November.

A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said: "The car shuttles comprise single and double-deck wagons with the single-deckers designed to carry coaches and other high-sided vehicles."

"We will resume carrying these vehicles on the car shuttles, which are currently running at a rate of two in each direction, though they will have to reserve in advance."

The announcement means that only heavy goods vehicles, which are carried on separate trains, have not yet resumed services. It is not known when lorry traffic will be able to restart.

A section of the northbound tunnel was badly damaged and 34 people were injured after a lorry on one of the freight wagons caught fire. An investigation into the cause of the original blaze is still being conducted by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority.

Fire brigade unions and MPs criticised a decision by the authority to allow freight trains to resume services just three days after the blaze and Eurostar and car shuttles weeks later.

Part of the tunnel is still closed and trains have adopted a "cross-over" procedure, using the central service tunnel, to avoid the damaged section.

The tunnel has been dogged by problems since the fire, including a minor blaze as engineers tried to move the damaged train days after the first blaze.

Two weeks ago, a stationary Le Shuttle train intended for use as an evacuation vehicle caught fire at the Folkestone terminal because of a wiring fault. Last week two Eurostar trains were stranded in the tunnel after electrical faults developed.

## Graduates will find jobs hunt easier

BY OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION for top graduate jobs will be less fierce this summer, because vacancies are increasing at a faster rate than the rate of increase in people looking for them. We are actually winning for the first time in five years.

Students have had to battle hard for plum jobs during the 1990s, but the Association of Graduate Recruiters yesterday forecast an 11.5 per cent rise in vacancies. This summer's graduates who find a job will start on an average salary of £15,325, the association forecast. Starting pay rose by 4.4 per cent in 1996, compared with the rise in average earnings of 3.7 per cent, and is likely to increase by a similar amount this year.

Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, said: "The number of traditional graduate jobs stayed the same almost throughout the recession, but the number of graduates coming out of the university system has doubled over the past five years. For the first

time since then, the number of vacancies is going up faster than the rate of increase in people looking for them. We are actually winning for the first time in five years."

Call for universities to take over the Student Loans Company comes from academics at the LSE, the only institution so far to prepare course fees for 1998 entrants. Iain Crawford and Nicholas Barr, at the LSE's Centre for Education Research, estimate a takeover would cost each university £20,000, if the Government successfully sold off the company's existing £2 billion of debt.

Mr Crawford said: "Universities are the ideal bodies for administering student loans because they would always be motivated to act in the interests of the borrower."

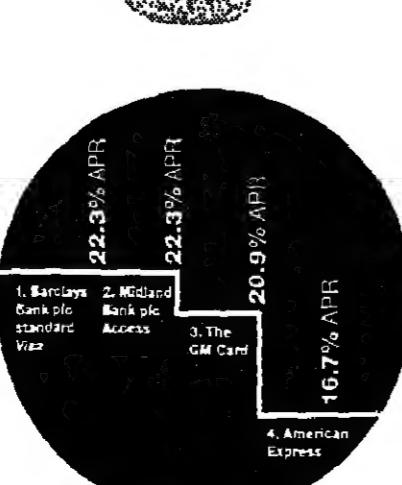
**"Still thinking of American Express as a step up"**

Think again.

Are you stuck at the top of the interest rate ladder, paying as much as 23% APR? Come back down to earth with American Express. With our new Credit Card not only will you enjoy a low 16.7% APR on any existing balance transfer but also on all new purchases. Plus there's no annual fee for the first year.

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

**0800 700 767**



The Prince of Wales with Prince Harry yesterday

as highly respected. However, 19 per cent view them as irresponsible, and the number who believe the Royal Family had high moral standards is 8 per cent.

At Klosters, the Prince of Wales' skiing holiday with Prince Harry was marred by stabs of back pain, the result of injuries from the Prince's "action man" youth and his career as a polo player. As father and son hurtled down a snow-covered hillside on a two-man toboggan, the 12-year-old squealed with delight while his father grimaced when the sledge bumped over a ridge of snow.

The ride was a prelude to another full day's skiing. As the sledges came to a halt in front of reporters and cameramen, the Prince of Wales' son sat on both shoulders. But Prince Harry, anxious to be off again, begged at the sledge's reins and they proceeded at speed downhill, leaving only the Prince of Wales' shout of "Au revoir" hanging in the mountain air.



# Police look to private firms for sponsorship cash



Mohamed Al Fayed in Harrods-sponsored car

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces aim to raise up to £70 million a year from sponsorship deals to fund patrol cars, police stations and crime-fighting strategies.

The logos of some of the biggest companies are already appearing on the sides of police cars and may soon be seen on uniforms. Crime prevention campaigns against drug abuse, computer theft and poaching have received commercial cash.

Sponsorship projects under way include an £8,000 mobile police station for the West End area of

Newcastle upon Tyne, provided by a local brewery. In Yorkshire, police patrol in a Peugeot 306 provided by the road-builder Balfour-Beatty.

The deals stem from new Home Office regulations that allow forces to raise up to 1 per cent of their annual budgets from sponsorship.

One senior police official said: "It's been forbidden territory until recently. Now everything is up for grabs." Normally forces rule out any endorsement of a company and require each deal to be carefully investigated and decisions on logos to be taken at senior level.

North Yorkshire, Cleveland, Gloucestershire, Cambridgeshire

and West Yorkshire have formed marketing teams. Humberside is appointing a marketing officer and the West Midlands force may do the same. The City of London has begun formulating a policy.

The Metropolitan Police is recruiting a sponsorship expert to raise more than £16 million a year. He or she will come from academic or charity fundraising and work with senior officers on the guidelines.

Companies interested in sponsorship will be carefully vetted and the use of logos and wording on police equipment examined to make sure they are not inappropriate. One

senior Yard source said: "We are not going to get into bed with someone who is trying to wash themselves clean. It has got to be someone with a reputation that does not tarnish us. Both sides have got to get something out of it."

He said the Yard had merely tinkered with such deals so far. Sponsorship for cars was worth only £5,000. £10,000 and the bigger projects had been worth less than £100,000 each. The new policy and appointment plan mark an attempt to co-ordinate the effort and tap a much bigger market.

The Yard already has a car sponsored by Harrods, which is used by

special constables in west London. McDonald's recently provided £50,000 for an anti-drug video and Esso gave money for a wildlife crime project. The Crimestoppers scheme is also backed by businesses, and many companies have contributed to a £1 million reward fund for combating terrorism.

In Surrey a fleet of cars for a national police course in high-speed chases have been donated by Vauxhall and carries logos. The car radios come from a communications company. In Saltaire, west Yorkshire, a group of businesses has funded a village police "shop" complete with blue lamp, by paying

the £3,000 rent on a house for a year. Land Rover has provided Thames Valley with one vehicle for a rural crime prevention patrol.

But the course of partnership is not always smooth. A van sponsored by the drinks outlet Threshers for Avon and Somerset police had to have the logo reduced in size because of objections. The Police Federation, representing junior ranks, argues that sponsorship is no substitute for proper police funding. Fred Broughton, chairman of the federation, said he feared a conflict of interests which could leave the public believing some companies received preferential treatment.

## Urban rich 'are main drug-users'

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROSPEROUS professionals living in smart inner-city and urban areas are the biggest users of illegal drugs, according to government studies of drug misuse. But these affluent residents are the least worried by criminal activity linked to drugs.

Home Office studies of "rising", "striving" and "settling" neighbourhoods found drug misuse was so widespread that it included churchgoers.

The highest level of drug-taking in the 19 to 59 age group was found in households with an income of more than £30,000 a year in neighbourhoods categorised as "rising". Other characteristics of these residents was that they tended to be health-conscious, took holidays off the beaten track and frequently ate out.

Malcolm Ramsay, one of the report's authors, said: "The use of prohibited drugs is seen by people who have everything else going in their lives as something they can handle to some degree: something they can dip in and dip out of."

In the rising neighbourhoods, 59 per cent of people between 16 and 29 admitted using drugs at some time and 24 per cent had used

them in the previous month, compared with 42 per cent and 14 per cent respectively in the less well-off council estates that were defined as striving areas. In the settling districts, made up of privately owned homes and largely skilled workers, the figures were 38 per cent and 11 per cent.

Among the 30 to 59 age group in rising districts, 44 per cent said they had taken drugs in their lifetime and 5 per cent in the past month, compared with 22 and 3 per cent in striving areas and 21 and 1 per cent in settling districts.

The report, called *Drug Misuse Declared*, says of the rising group: "These are people who are young, possibly single, generally without children. Even the older people in such neighbourhoods are substantially more likely to take drugs than those living elsewhere." The study was based on findings from 9,646 people in 1994.

A separate study of attitudes to drug-related crime found that residents of council estates were most concerned and those in the rising group were least anxious. The report adds that most young people have not taken prohibited drugs.

## Strokes made worse by suicide cells

By NIGEL HAWKES  
AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

SCIENTISTS have discovered that much of the damage caused by paralysis after stroke and spinal cord injuries comes from cells "committing suicide" when toxins are released by the brain.

The research could lead to drugs blocking the effect of the toxins and preventing paralysis. Scientists already knew that only part of the damage experienced by stroke victims was caused by the stroke itself.

Researchers at Manchester University, funded by the

charity Research into Ageing, have now identified a chemical, interleukin-1 or IL-1, which plays an important part in cell suicide. Professor Nancy Rothwell said: "Blocking the action of IL-1 dramatically reduces stroke damage, inhibiting brain swelling and inflammation." A quarter of stroke victims die and half of survivors are disabled.

Separate research in America has found that much of the damage from spinal cord injuries is not done at the time, but in the succeeding three weeks, when a wave of "suicides" runs through the nerve cells.



Judy Clementson: says the mandate from the 1975 referendum has run out

## Goldsmith party candidates put youth to the fore

BY RUTH WINSTONE

THEY have been denounced as a barny army, old flag-waving little Englanders. Sir James Goldsmith's rabble. They are the 530 candidates selected so far to stand for the Referendum Party.

A few star names have been announced, but what of the rest? According to a survey by *The Times* of 300 chosen by the beginning of December, their average age is about 46 — slightly older than the Conservative average of 41 and Labour's 45, but younger than media stereotypes of retired colonels. A substantial number were too young to vote in the 1975 referendum, in which the youngest elector would now be 39.

That is their opening argument. One of those too young in 1975 was John Mackfall. Now 36 and a traffic warden, he is challenging a Conservative majority of 18,000 in Ryedale, Yorkshire. He is director of the local Harley Davidson motorcycle club, chairman of his union branch, has no strong political affiliations and believes in progressive social policies. He does not have much time for politicians but says: "Someone has to offer the electorate a choice."

Among the youngest candidates is Craig Robinson, a 25-year-old telecommunications consultant fighting Basildon, where the Tory majority is 1,400. He sees advantages in co-operation with other EU countries — on fishing, pollution and peace — and wants Britain to be a good member state but says that Maastricht is a treaty too far.

Judy Clementson, 48, a grandmother and roller-blading fan, is fighting Virginia Bottomley's Surrey seat. She said: "I voted in favour of the 1975 referendum, but that mandate has run out. Electors lend powers to their MPs for five years. These cannot be given away indefinitely."

Christopher McGovern, 46, a primary teacher who lost his job as a secondary school

history teacher after criticising GCSE standards, has been advising the Government on its history curriculum. He is the candidate fighting for Hastings and Rye. He argues that federal models cannot survive against national interests and identity.

The party claims growing support, suggesting last week that it had recruited its 100,000th supporter. Its central tenet is that there has been a failure of democratic representation in politics.

The candidates have nothing like the support or infrastructure of the other parties. Chosen by a central panel, their local organisations have to be built from scratch. The party has no formal membership or subscription system, and candidates put up their own deposits.

The most recent candidate is Ruth Gurney, 41, a lay assessor with Birmingham Social Services and a widow with six children, who will fight Clare Short's seat in Ladsworthy. In the past, Miss Gurney dallied with the Young Socialists and converted to the Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher. She was moved to become a Referendum Party candidate by a *Parliament* profile of Sir James.

Among the youngest candidates is Craig Robinson, a 25-year-old telecommunications consultant fighting Basildon, where the Tory majority is 1,400. He sees advantages in co-operation with other EU countries — on fishing, pollution and peace — and wants Britain to be a good member state but says that Maastricht is a treaty too far.

Judy Clementson, 48, a grandmother and roller-blading fan, is fighting Virginia Bottomley's Surrey seat. She said: "I voted in favour of the 1975 referendum, but that mandate has run out. Electors lend powers to their MPs for five years. These cannot be given away indefinitely."

Christopher McGovern, 46, a primary teacher who lost his job as a secondary school

## Scientists find heart defect gene

Scientists have identified the gene behind an inherited condition which can lead to babies being born with a hole in the heart. Holt-Oram syndrome affects the development of the heart and forearm.

A team led by Professor David Brook at Nottingham University, tracked down the gene responsible, HOS-1. A paper on the research, which was backed by the British Heart Foundation, appears in this month's *Nature Genetics*.

### Weekend in jail

Peter Curzon, 45, heir to Viscount Scarsdale, will appear in the High Court today after spending the weekend in jail for failing to pay a £575,000 divorce settlement agreed last June. He was arrested after he flew to Britain from Florida.

### 999 death crash

A teenager was killed when he was hit by a police car answering an emergency call. Ian McClure, 18, of Irvine, North Ayrshire, died at the scene of the accident in the town centre. A report is to be prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.

### Private lines

Three more rail lines have started running privatised services. First Bus, GB Railways and Virgin Rail are operating out of London to East Anglia. Virgin Rail, Virgin Group manager, runs CrossCountry.

### Lasagne recall

Asda has recalled packs of frozen lasagne which may have been filled in error with a vegetable bake containing cashew nuts. The recall affects 400g packs with a best-before date of November 1997 and the code ERK 6316L.

### Garden quarry

A man sweeping his patio was sucked into a 100ft hole that opened up beneath him. Stephen Owen, 28, managed to scramble clear after becoming wedged in the top of what was thought to be an old quarry shaft at his home in Sheffield.

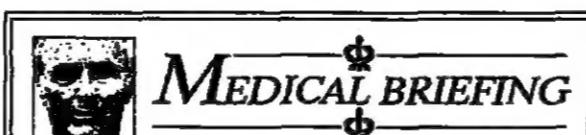
### Happy returns

Villagers in Gotherington, Gloucestershire, who donated £10,000 30 years ago towards a church that was never built, are being asked if they want their money back. The money has grown to £65,000 in a church bank account.

### Nod and a wink

Christine Wiggins, 24, has become the first woman council member of the English Tiddlywinks Association since its formation in 1955. Ms Wiggins, ranked thirtieth in the world, was chosen as chairwoman in a secret ballot.

## Hormone replacement can rejuvenate men as well as women



has made a speciality of the study of male hormonal problems. He has contrasted the tall, thin, eunuchoid build, like that of Sun Yat-sen when he was younger, with that of Napoleon Bonaparte, who was highly sexed in his youth. As a young man Napoleon

was stocky, robust, hirsute and — there is sculptural evidence — well endowed sexually. In middle age, however, he appeared to have suffered the male menopause, genital atrophy and, presumably, impotence. Dr Carruthers has for many

years advocated that men, as well as women, need hormone replacement in middle age and that, given this, they would keep their physical and mental powers more youthful and preserve their sex lives.

Testosterone is now available as an injection, in tablets (which are not always effective), or as a slow-release skin patch. The skin patch, worn like a sticking plaster applied to a hairless part of the body, provides a regular supply of testosterone which compensates for the failing testes.

Caution is needed. Cancer of the prostate, a common disease in older men, is hormone-dependent, and falling testosterone levels in the elderly may protect men from its ravages. Before embarking on rejuvenation, it is essential that the state of this potentially lethal gland, the prostate, should be assessed.

Those who should not take testosterone can resort to another piece of Dr Carruthers's advice and adopt an aphrodisiac menu. Champagne, followed by a starter,

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

## ...a partnership for progress.



At Fujitsu, we've been working with Microsoft since 1982 to bring compatible working solutions to the market place.

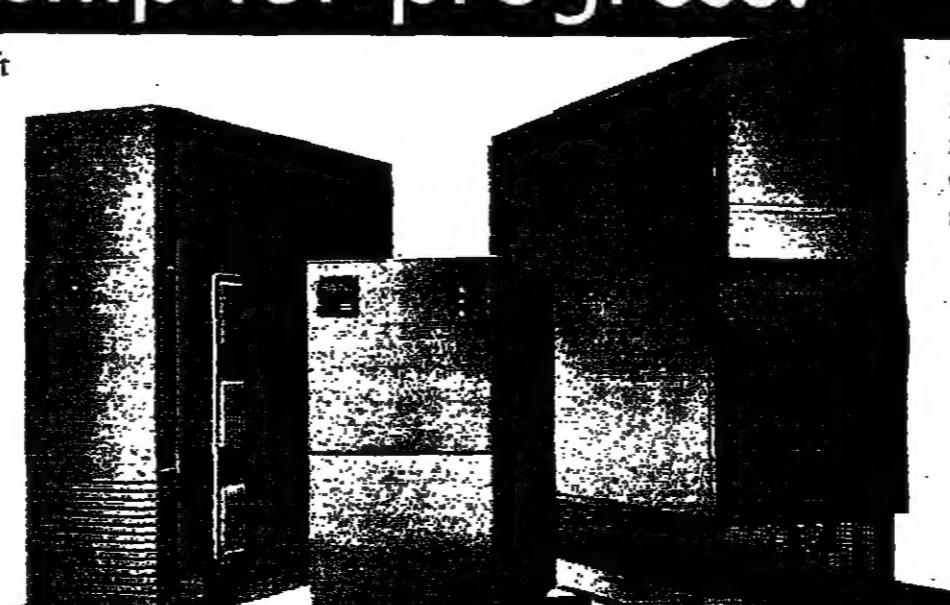
That's why, when you're thinking of going the Windows NT route, you should think of Fujitsu Servers.

For the integrated approach that provides an integrated solution.

That cuts costs and increases system and user efficiency.

For range, performance, reliability and the built-in ability to upgrade to suit your every need, they're a pretty tough act to follow.

And with a choice of proven connectivity and groupware solutions, including Microsoft BackOffice, Oracle and TeamWare, Fujitsu Servers are available now, off the shelf and ready to run your applications.



Phone us now on 0345 123 555 for more details

The benefits and cost savings are immediate. You can integrate existing systems; connect PCs to mainframes and minis; even integrate UNIX servers, all from one highly experienced supplier, to keep your investment costs to a minimum.

Fujitsu and Microsoft Windows NT.  
*A partnership for progress.*

**FUJITSU**

PCs • NOTEBOOKS • SERVERS

The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation.

Shuttle  
times  
vices  
coad  
eller  
ut Repon  
rifice  
on Le Si  
will have  
serve. Planc  
the limited  
ces runnes  
one on a  
member.  
woman said.  
eprise single  
and other  
resume comp  
are com  
rate of no  
direction, hig  
e to respo  
ment now  
y goods  
carried a  
have on  
is very tradi  
ur.  
the possibl  
ally damage  
were eve  
on one of  
caught de  
the cou  
ze is still in  
the Cite  
Authority  
union as  
a decision  
allowing  
e service in  
the place  
car star  
tunne  
is here day  
possible  
it serve in  
the damage  
been done  
ree the fa  
not bla  
to move it  
days after  
a source  
intended  
that while  
the follow  
of a winc  
replied in  
and the  
line recall  
ks  
ITS  
den quarry  
py returns  
and a wink  
NT  
ESS

## Secret summit fails to agree deal on Hebron pull-out

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A SECRET pre-dawn meeting between Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority, yesterday failed to break the deadlock over an Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron.

The covert attempt to defuse the crisis over the delayed pull-out from 80 per cent of the city reflected increasing pressure from Washington for a deal. The four hours of talks took place at the Erez crossing-point between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

First news of the meeting came from Israeli Radio five hours after it ended. But expectations were swiftly dashed when both sides acknowledged that an agreement had still not yet been achieved.

Mr Netanyahu expressed regret later that the secrecy of the meeting had been broken, because he believed that keeping details from the media could have served to boost confidence.

Although, in an effort to maintain the momentum of negotiations, both sides later spoke of "progress", Palestinian officials said the refusal of Israel to provide a detailed, agreed timetable for the next three Israeli withdrawals from Hebron remained the main obstacle.

Nabil Shaath, a leading member of the Palestinian Authority and one of the first

officials to speak openly about the secret talks, said: "I think that some positive things were achieved, but we still have a major problem with the schedule of withdrawal after Hebron."

Israeli sources have angrily accused Mr Arafat of deliberately delaying a deal by making the timetable for further pull-backs an essential condition of his signature to the withdrawal from Hebron, where tensions have reached dangerous levels. But the Palestinians counter that such a timetable is vital because of the delays surrounding Israel's handing over of Hebron, originally scheduled for last March but delayed by a series of suicide bombings.

According to the interim agreement of September 1995, the withdrawal from most of Hebron, where 450 Jewish settlers live, surrounded by 120,000 Arabs, should be followed by three further troop redeployments. The first of these, from mainly rural areas, should have begun last September.

One Israeli source said last night that Israel was willing to commit itself to a date for the first withdrawal, expected to be from Halhoul, near Hebron, six weeks after that from Hebron. But Mr Netanyahu has opposed providing dates for the second and third withdrawals.

A leading member of his Likud Party said he was now



Water bursts through a levee in Modesto, California, at the weekend, flooding farmland to a depth of 15ft. Thirty-seven of the state's counties have declared disaster areas, as well as 13 in Idaho. Twenty-three deaths have been blamed on the week-long storms

## Gingrich faces new ethics accusations

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

CLAIMS that Newt Gingrich had not ruled out stepping aside as Republican Speaker and that there was a new ethics charge hanging over him were made yesterday as Democrats and Republicans bitterly traded barbs over tomorrow's vote to re-elect him.

Washington's obsession with the Gingrich case means that even if he is re-elected, it will be with his clout diminished and his reputation tarnished by ethics woes.

The suggestion that Mr Gingrich might remove himself from the race was made by a fellow Republican, Matt Salmon, an Arizona congressman who had urged Mr Gingrich to step aside while his case was still under investigation. Mr Salmon said that when he spoke to Mr Gingrich on Friday, the Speaker said that that might still be a possibility.

It was entirely possible other Republicans might agree with the idea after listening to Mr Gingrich put his case to them today, with the understanding that they would elect a caretaker Speaker until Mr Gingrich's case was resolved, when he would be returned to office, Mr Salmon claimed. The proposition that Mr Gingrich was even thinking of withdrawing was instantly denied by Republican leaders.

A Democrat claim that Mr Gingrich faces unresolved problems was a last-minute attempt to unsettle Republicans whose leaders were braced for

any outcome but remained confident they had won over enough wavering by non-stop lobbying.

David Bonior, the Democratic whip who is on a crusade to oust Mr Gingrich, claimed to have a new complaint pending with the ethics committee about \$10 million to \$20 million (£6 million to £12 million) raised by Gopac. Mr Gingrich's political action committee.

Appearing on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Mr Bonior said: "We don't know who gave him the money, how much they gave him or how the money was spent." He implied that it was linked to the ethics charge. Mr Gingrich has already admitted and said when all the facts are disclosed by an independent counsel that American people would know the extent to which Mr Gingrich was engaged in an effort to defraud charitable foundations.

Working from his home in Georgia, Mr Gingrich has been trying to phone all 227 House Republicans to plead for their votes. This evening he will address members en masse behind closed doors on Capitol Hill in preparation for his case for remaining in charge.

If only 20 Republicans abstain tomorrow, they will defeat Mr Gingrich and could hand the Speaker's gavel to Richard Gephardt, the Democratic leader.

Leading article, page 19

A young Jew sits outside the Beit Hadassa settlement in Hebron as an Israeli patrol goes about its work

## Tense city lives on a knife-edge as enmity deepens

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AS NEWS of the secret talks between Benjamin Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat leaked out, a petrol bomb was thrown yesterday at a building occupied by Jewish settlers in the centre of Hebron.

The daytime attack caused no injuries, but it was the latest in a series of incidents heightening tension in the city which, under the Oslo-brokered peace accord, is to revert to Palestinian self rule.

"Anything could happen at any moment," Daniel Gundersmann, a Norwegian peace observer, said. He had broken his new year holiday to return to Hebron over fears of a new security crisis, whether or not the long-delayed Israeli pull-out takes place.

Nayef Hashlamoun, a Palestinian photographer who, with other foreign cameramen, is on duty round the clock to film any violence said: "The Israelis and the Palestinians are living on their nerves. There is a feeling that the city could explode at any minute, causing clashes that could spread to the rest of the occupied West Bank."

He was one of the photographers whose pictures of last week's near-massacre, when Noam Friedman, 22, a religiously motivated Israeli soldier, was killed, caused international outrage. The soldier, hailed as a hero for wrestling Friedman to the ground. Referring to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the late Prime Minister, by a religious Jew, the rabbi from Kiryat Arba settlement suddenly reminded the soldier that "Rabin, too, was a hero".

Close to the spot where last week's shooting took place is a sign highlighting the blood feuds that have made the conflict in Hebron so深

# Xmas debts?

Apply for a Co-operative Bank Visa credit card and you can transfer your existing credit or store card balance at just 7.9% APR. This is the UK's lowest balance transfer rate\*. You could be paying over double that right now.

Two more amazing guarantees: we'll never charge you an annual fee for your card, and we'll match your highest credit card limit. (Our Gold Card limit is £3,000 minimum.)

The balance transfer rate is guaranteed till July '97, by which time you could save up to £150\*. After that date you're looking at a competitive 19.5% APR variable for any remaining balance transferred from your existing card. The rate for any new card purchases is 21.7% APR variable.

You don't have to bank with us, just call us free. And the sooner you do, the more you'll save.

No annual fee ever  
Keep your credit limit  
Gold Card limit £3,000 minimum  
No need to bank with us

Post to Visa Dept., The Co-operative Bank plc, FREEPOST (MNR192), Manchester M1 9AC, or phone 0800 00 79 79 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please use block capitals

Full name _____	Address _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Postcode _____	Phone number (inc STD) _____

**0800 00 79 79**

LIMITED OFFER - APPLY NOW, CALL FREE 7 DAYS, 24 HOURS, QUOTING REFERENCE NO. 64201

THE BANK MAY DECLINE ANY APPLICATION. CREDIT FACILITIES ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND NOT AVAILABLE TO MINORS. WRITTEN CREDIT REFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL BE PASSED TO A CREDIT REFERENCE AGENCY FOR CREDIT ASSESSMENT. A COPY OF THE ENQUIRY MAY BE MAILED. \*TYPICAL EXAMPLE IS BASED ON A BALANCE OF £1,000 THAT REMAINS CONSTANT UNTIL 26TH JUNE 1997. MNP VISA CARD BALANCE TRANSFER RATE 18.9% APR WOULD COST £19.50. BARCLAYS BANK VISA CARD @ 22.2% APR WOULD COST £14. PAYMENTS ARE 1% OF YOUR OUTSTANDING BALANCE EACH MONTH. MINIMUM £5 OR MORE IF YOU WANT.

## Voters get stuck into Europe while politicians are stuck for an answer

**S**tephen Dorrell says he would like to "re-negotiate" Britain's relationship with the European Union. Only one, almost trivially technical, question needs answering before the young contender's idea becomes manifest: material: how precisely does Mr Dorrell intend to accomplish this change?

Most Tory MPs think this question pedantic: practical issues of government hardly enter into the power struggle over the hearts and minds of backbenchers who will elect their next leader. Having already slid into an opposition mentality which gives



theory precedence over governance, Tories can bandy around buzzwords like "renegotiation", "repatriation" and "withdrawal" without worrying too much about what they might mean in practice.

Mr Dorrell's renegotiation is going to be happen anyway. Events will recast the EU in the following ways over the next decade:

□ The single currency will build a political wall down the middle of the EU between those in and those out. The key, unresolved issue is whether the division is a permanent one between hostile camps or whether the "outs" will be sucked in.

□ Membership of the EU for Poles, Czechs and Hungarians will trigger an earthquake because of widespread agreement that neither the EU system nor its budget can cope unless altered. But since

big, entrenched interests are under threat, change will be slow and expensive.

□ At the millennium the EU will consist of four overlapping clubs: the largest covering all who operate single-market rules; a smaller single currency zone; a talking shop debating security and defence; and a "Schengen" bloc where internal frontiers have vanished and whose states try to make their police work better with each other.

The pivotal question for a British government is how far these bits coalesce towards a federation or remain as distinct, but

interwoven, groups. The European political class wants it to congeal into a single system, but the story has not always been that simple. The Maastricht treaty split the EU into three chunks and then, somewhat perversely, called the result a

company, that a French policeman sits in a glass box in Dover inspecting the passports of Channel Tunnel drivers, and yet the local Westminster MP remains more significant than the Euro-MP.

Takes the breezy crystal-

screen-gazers of the infotech magazine *Wired* who see 1997 like this: "When the Union Jack is lowered over Hong Kong, the final shovel of earth will cover the grave of the British Empire. For the first time in over a century Britons will look out over the world with neither a sense of ownership nor a sense of loss.

but with simply a spirit of opportunity". First-time voters in 1997 will be people for whom Europe has always been a cultural reality as well as a political hot pot, for whom Asia is an economic engine rather than a provider of takeaway restaurants for whom the borders of the United Kingdom are up for discussion.

But that obliges British politicians to spell out now how they will use what leverage we have to bargain Britain's new place in the new EU. Mr Dorrell hasn't done it. Anyone else care to try?

GEORGE BROCK

## Mutineers killed as French retaliate in Bangui

FROM SUSAN BELL  
IN PARIS

FRENCH troops killed ten army mutineers and took 30 prisoners yesterday in the Central African Republic in retaliation for the murder of two unarmed French soldiers ambushed and shot dead on Saturday while on a multinational mediation mission.

At least three civilians were also killed on Saturday during clashes between French troops and the mutineers when civilian supporters of the rebels tried to move in groups towards the centre of Bangui, the capital.

The French attack came less than two months after President Chirac said France would not intervene alone in Africa. The French Defence Ministry said yesterday that the operation was not an intervention but "a simple act of retaliation" and had been carried out "in legitimate defence".

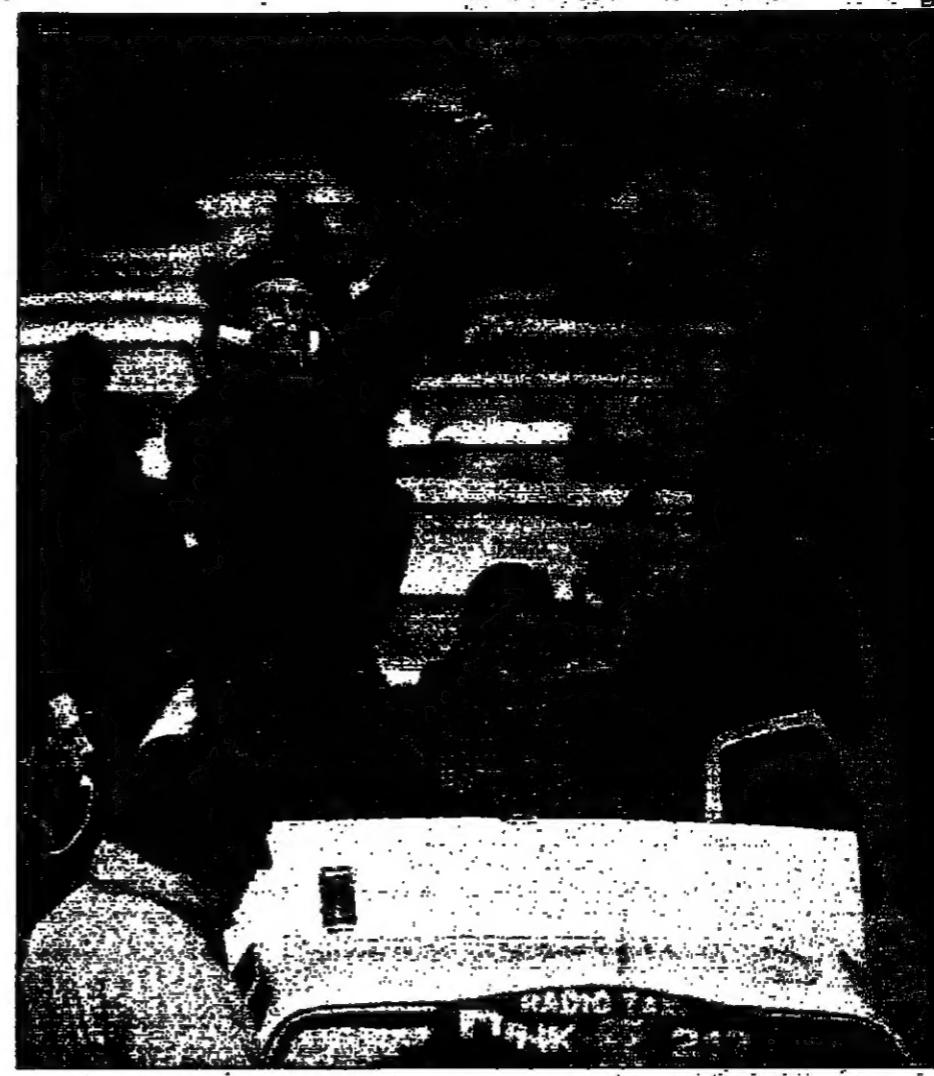
France said yesterday's mission was aimed at safeguarding democracy and political stability in Central Africa and protecting French citizens and other foreign citizens in its former colony. It said that the operation did not affect France's support for the multinational mediation mission created last month to foster dialogue and peace in the troubled and impoverished republic.

As French tanks and armoured vehicles rolled into Bangui in the early hours of yesterday, two French Puma helicopters armed with 20mm cannon opened fire on rebel strongholds in the police station in Peto and the Kassai army camp, both on the outskirts of the city.

The French Defence Ministry said that a considerable number of weapons including AK-47 automatic rifles and machine-guns, as well as ammunition, were seized during the operation. Their were no French casualties. French troops have also taken control of the port and its fuel supplies and a short-wave radio transmitter.

Captain Patrick-René Devos and Warrant Officer Gérard Giraldo, both 34, were killed by mutineers while with a multinational mediation team led by officers from Chad and Burkina Faso. The French Defence Ministry denounced the killings as "cowardly murders".

A map showing the location of the Central African Republic relative to its neighbors: Chad, Sudan, Cameroon, and Zaire.



Belgrade protesters blow whistles to demonstrate their disgust with the regime

## Whites held after South African mosque bombing

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO white men were arrested in South Africa yesterday following three bomb blasts which police are linking to the Christmas Eve attack on a supermarket almost 1,000 miles away which killed four people and injured more than 60. Two people were hurt in yesterday's explosions.

Police said they stopped two platinum miners in a red car at a roadside soon after the blasts at Rustenburg about 100 miles northwest of Johannesburg. Three men in a red car were seen speeding away from the scene of the Christmas Eve attack at Worcester, 60 miles from Cape Town.

The two arrested men were remanded in custody until Friday by magistrates. Police said explosives were found in the car and at one of the men's homes. They were named as Pierre Jacob and Christian Harense.

Later yesterday Sydney Mufamadi, Minister of Safety and Security, visited Rustenburg in North West Province to see the blast damage caused to a mosque in an Indian section of the town.

Two other bombs damaged a Muslim-owned post-office in the village of Modo Nooi about 20 miles from Rustenburg and a Muslim-owned off-licence at nearby Marikana. Mr Mufamadi described the bombings as the work of "mad people".

The movement has denied involvement in the supermarket bombing but has said that it understands the frustrations of its members.

It said that the "open hatred" of Dullah Omar, the Minister of Justice who is also a Muslim, "towards the white race and the Boer people is the reason for breakaway groups who are no longer prepared to accept injustice".

A map showing the location of the Central African Republic relative to its neighbors: Chad, Sudan, Cameroon, and Zaire.

## Madrid students see red over professor's views on colour

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

CONTROVERSY erupted at Madrid's oldest university yesterday after students accused a psychology professor of writing a racist textbook.

Guillermo Quintana, professor of educational psychology at the Complutense University, provoked complaints after his students discovered that sections of his new textbook, *La Psicología de la Personalidad, y sus Trastornos* — "The psychology of personality, and its disorders" — appeared to be riddled with racial slurs.

In extracts of the book, published yesterday in the newspaper *El País*, Professor Quintana writes that "the members of the black race,

unlike those of the white race, share a certain uniformity. They are primitive in their mentality and their customs, and inferior to whites in their exercise of the psychic functions of analysis, reflection, reasoning, will, decision-making, self-control and artistic ability (whether in music or the plastic arts)".

The section on blacks continues: "Their main personality traits are an infantile hyper-emotiveness, emotional instability, imbalance, fear, spinelessness, cowardice, weakness of spirit, a need for company, false arrogance, a pride empty of content, an ingenuous trust in others, fanaticism, instinctive pas-

sion, irritability, insensitivity, and a lack of noble sentiments".

The "yellow race", by comparison, gets off lightly, being criticised only as being "slow, clumsy and lacking in imagination and invention".

Another chapter tells the story of a man who returned to secular life. Professor Quintana describes his visit to her in the following terms: "Her legs, earlier protected under her habit, were now barely covered by her miniskirt and revealed as rather ugly. Her well-sculpted lips, made for prayer, were now used not to kiss the crucifix but some other more stimulating object."

## Protesters' car parade paralyses Serb capital

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN BELGRADE

PRESIDENT Milosevic appeared yesterday to have lost control of the Serbian capital Belgrade as a cavalcade of cars and more than 100,000 pro-democracy demonstrators paralysed the city in open defiance of the socialist regime's police force.

Thousands of cars moving at snail's pace jammed every street in the centre as the protesters on foot swarmed into the main square, blowing whistles and detonating fireworks. In massed columns they marched past the federal assembly building and the television centre.

The police appeared overwhelmed by the scale of protest and melted away before the throng which was chanting "Red Bandits" and "War Criminals".

The protesters' new tactic outfoxed the regime. After almost seven weeks of demonstrations, the movement has snowballed across Serbia and is now threatening Mr Milosevic's crumbling power base. The demonstrators are seeking to force the Government to

recognise opposition victories in municipal elections across Serbia.

"It is him or us now," Gojko Domic, a scientist and senior professor at Belgrade University who joined the demonstration, said. "Every day this is getting bigger and, 100 per cent for sure it is Milosevic and his system we want out. Neither him nor it can be

adapted to democracy and they both must go. It is too late for compromise."

Yesterday's action began in the best tradition of Balkan irony with a decrepit red Yugo parked in the middle of the city's high street, the Street of Serbian Rulers. Within minutes other cars joined it, their drivers clambering out and mocking the police by opening their bonnets and waving car

jacks. Soon all traffic ground to a halt and thousands of people poured out of blocks of flats and offices to demonstrate, drowning out all other sounds with a cacophony of whistles, klaxons and horns.

Although the mood was carnival-like, the air was charged with tension and anger directed at the President and his regime. "If Not Now,

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention to an unlikely figure in the crowd, Dragoslav Avramovic, a former governor of the Yugoslav national bank

Then When," the banners read, and the streets roared with cries of "Come on, let's go, everybody in the attack" — the chant of the Serbian football team Red Star.

In the immediate absence of any of the main opposition leaders the crowd turned their attention



# The DISCOVERY DIET GUIDE

*Food scientists now believe that diets should be tailored to the individual.*

*All this week The Times will help you to find out what's wrong with your eating habits and which foods are right for you*

**Does science have the answer?**

**WE ARE** regularly assailed by new eating philosophies, never more urgently than just after the traditional Christmas binge. These philosophies range from full-blown diets which promise instant weight loss through to occasional bulletins from the Department of Health imploring the public to eat more fresh food.

Celebrities also have a lot to answer for. When Elizabeth Hurley said that she was a devotee of food combining, in which different food types such as proteins or carbohydrates are eaten in specific permutations, this revelation was dissected in detail and no doubt inspired many others

to try it. However, one dominant trend is emerging. Food scientists no longer assume that a diet that works for one person will work for everyone. Indeed, research published in the *British Medical Journal* last week shows that diets based on counting calories are less effective than those which concentrate on the types of food eaten.

Blanket dietary advice is out, and in its place has come nutritional advice specific to the individual. The field of nutritional therapy — founded on the premise that each person is biochemically unique and has different sustenance requirements — is booming. The concept that diets should

be tailored to individuals ties in with more academic studies on the way we eat, or should be eating.

The latest research has indicated that individuals vary widely in their biochemical responses to food, and this is down to the balance of different proteins in each person.

One important implication is that if you want to eat foods that are good for you, then don't necessarily look to government guidelines. And, since the production of proteins is regulated by our genetic make-up, it stands to reason that our diets should be dictated by our DNA.

This most pioneering research has been

carried out by Dr Gary Williamson, head of cellular metabolism and enzymology at the Institute for Food Research in Norwich. He has shown that when human liver cells are fed chemicals found naturally in vegetables, they show a huge variation in biochemical response.

Dr Williamson's research has focused on fruit and vegetables, which should make up a substantial part of a healthy diet. For example, broccoli, onion and garlic are known to stimulate production of a protective chemical called gs-alpha. Natural levels in the body can vary thirtyfold across the population. "That is why it is more important for people at the lowest end of the scale to eat more of these vegetables," says Dr Williamson.

This is very simple, but scientifically rigorous proof that the same diet can have different effects on different people. One has only to look at a population of thriving centenarians for further evidence — many appear to put their longevity down to cigarettes, whisky or fat-laden fry-ups, while that lifestyle clearly puts other people at risk.

So how do we go about finding out what we should eat? Dr Williamson has a radical view of the future. He says: "I wouldn't be surprised if, in ten years, we could walk into a supermarket and get a biochemical test done. Then you could

**'In ten years we could have biochemical tests at the supermarket to determine what we should buy'**

adapt your diet accordingly. It isn't far-fetched by any means. That's what people said about cholesterol tests, and these are now routinely done by GPs and used to give dietary advice."

But ten years is a long time. This is where the nutritional therapist comes in. Equipped with an impressive armoury of laboratory tests, he or she can already offer this brand of made-to-measure eating plan. And many of these plans go further than weight loss — some therapists claim to be able to cure maladies. Their advice ranges from the general right through to vitamin and mineral supplements and recipes.

People turn to nutritional therapy for many reasons — perhaps they have developed a food intolerance, prefer not to take drugs or feel that conventional medicine has failed them. They will often be given more time by a therapist than by a GP, and there is undoubtedly an element of taking responsibility when a diet, rather than a drug, is prescribed. A visit may be prompted purely by a desire to boost health and energy.

Whatever the reason, the rise in nutritional therapy is undeniable. The Society for the Promotion of Nutritional Therapy, which was set up only five years ago, boasts 2,000 members of whom 700 are accredited practitioners. Many are doctors, nurses and clinical nutritionists.

The society's work received a boost recently when a government study showed that the vitamin and mineral supplements so favoured by nutritional therapists were safe. "We get 2,000 inquiries a year," says Linda Lazarides, S.P.N.T.'s director. "It is certainly becoming better known because people are seeking more natural ways of looking after themselves."

## PRODUCT RECALL

### Frozen ASDA Vegetable Lasagne - 400g

A very small number of frozen ASDA Vegetable Lasagnes may wrongly contain a vegetable bake, of which one of the ingredients is cashew nuts.

Whilst the vegetable bake is wholesome and safe to eat, customers, particularly those allergic to nuts, should return the product to their nearest ASDA store for a full refund.

The affected frozen lasagne has a best before date of **November 1997**. The reference code **ERK 63161** is printed on top of the box in the bottom right hand corner.

All other frozen lasagnes stocked by ASDA are unaffected by this announcement.

**ASDA**

ANJANA AHUJA

Mary Killen finally found the secret of eating well while watching the scales

زن من العمل





THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997



Radiant with health at 54: Gudrun Jonsson says: "People are waking up to the importance of preventing illness through adapting their lifestyle and diet."

## 'I lost weight and cleared my mind'

AFTER being hideously bulky for about two years, despite consuming roughly a third of the calories as my peers, I finally found the secret of eating as much as them while still losing weight. I was delighted that I wrote an article explaining how I did it in the August 1995 issue of *Harpers & Queen*.

A nutritionist, rheumatologist, and biopathologist named Gudrun Jonsson had told me that my bulkiness and almost non-existent bowel movements had nothing to do with allergies; I was simply "sensitive" to certain foodstuffs, such as dairy products. It was not my fault that I had blown up like a balloon.

Following her instructions, yet still eating more than I had for years, I lost 23lb in four months.

The article seemed to strike a chord, perhaps because it was then almost unheard of to blame a "syndrome" rather than personal inadequacy for one's defects. Gudrun was so besieged by people wanting consultations that her answering phone soon announced, in slightly pernickety tones, that there were no more new appointments for at least six months.

She told me I had a "toxic gut" which was fermenting. "And when you put in dairy products, you make more fermentation," she said. Wheat and yeast also contributed to fermentation and I was told to avoid them, too.

I hardly ever went to the loo, so everything I ate was neither being used as energy, nor being expelled as waste, but trapped in a seething pit of fermentation. How had I created this "toxic gut"? Gudrun explained that stress is a contributory factor. It results in food being serially gobbled in a panicky way because of tension; then not properly processed as the digestive juices have not been triggered by correct chewing.

Antibiotics can strip the natural flora of the gut and once the blockage has begun, ill-advised food combinations aggravate the problem. Hay dieters will know that protein and starch should be eaten separately, otherwise the digestive juices needed to break them down — one acid and one alkali — are triggered at the same time and neutralise each other.

Fruit eaten with other food causes similar problems. Too much fibre-free food means that the waste is not expelled properly. All these factors, particularly the latter, lead to toxic gut and, consequently, low energy levels, said Gudrun. I was to avoid wheat, yeast, dairy

products, tomatoes, orange juice, coffee, sugar and chocolate. Gudrun was one of the first people in this country to identify oranges, milk and chocolate as "enemies of the system".

Some people may scoff at the idea, in 1995, but a study soon to be published in the *Journal of Nutritional Medicine* reveals that persistent crème fraîche frequently cannot tolerate certain foods and are allergic to others. Bananas and oranges have been singled out as mood-altering — along with other everyday foods such as milk, potatoes and apricots. Even chocolate is guilty of triggering aggressive, unpredictable behaviour in some people according to the research, it was reported last month.

Gudrun prescribed some homeopathic mixtures to wake up the system

**Oranges, milk and chocolate are considered to be enemies of the digestive system and are best avoided'**

before eating, to make you sleep well so as to help the recovery process, and to reintroduce bacterial flora to the gut.

I also consumed five cups of hot water with lemon and ginger. In no time my bowel movements were regular and my mind was less foggy.

MY HUSBAND, who is a very good cook and who generally prepares our food, paid no attention when I first began to follow this "latest neurotic diet", as he called it. A man who, depending on what he has been eating, swings between looking like Robert Redford or Timothy Spall — was going through a Timothy Spall stage in those days.

At first he was annoyed, when I wouldn't join him in shepherd's pie or chicken curry, but when he saw that the weight was dropping off even though I was still eating reasonable amounts of food, he became interested. A typical day's intake for me would include oat bran

porridge for breakfast, flavoured with maple syrup, five wheat, yeast- and sugar-free cakes mid-morning, baked potato, olive oil and salad for lunch, and hot vegetable stock at intervals until the evening. Then three glasses of wine (although Gudrun advised two) and stir-fried vegetables with chicken or lamb with swede or celeriac (neither of which counts as starch) for supper.

My husband, an asthmatic who also suffered from indigestion, soon joined me on the diet. He lost two stones in two months and did not need his Ventolin inhaler again.

WHEN I first went to Gudrun I had also been trying to have a second baby, with no success. Gudrun felt that "nothing will stick there while you have this toxic gut" but she said that in a few months "we can get you pregnant".

Four months after that first meeting I was indeed expecting a baby. And I had dropped from 11st 9lb to 10st. I followed Gudrun's diet throughout the pregnancy and was 11st 7lb just before having the baby in January 1994. I was 10st 7lb after the birth. I should have been able to complete the trajectory which had been interrupted and continue downwards until I was about 8st 10lb — the ideal weight for someone who is fit and healthy.

I stuck to Gudrun's eating instructions as often as I can. I buy Russian rye bread, available from Waitrose. I eat starch and protein separately. I avoid tomatoes, oranges and sugar. But when you have a two-year-old who drinks a lot of hot milk and you are constantly tasting it, plus making wheat and yeasty snacks for her and her nine-year-old sister and absent-mindedly licking your fingers . . .

More to the point, when you are constantly on tour as I am — my husband is a landscape painter and we travel a lot, staying with different people and eating their undesirable mixtures such as fish pie which contains wheat, yeast, dairy products and an unsuitable food combination of starch and protein, then it is difficult.

But three years on from a diet, it is not bad to be still 1st 6lb lighter than you were before, given that so many dieters balloon back to their original size. I remind myself that I am not nearly as hideous as I was, and the awful listless fog which once clouded my brain has gone — hopefully for ever.

MARY KILLEN

### RECIPES FOR DRINKS THAT HELP TO CLEANSE THE BODY

THERE is no definitive method for detoxifying the body; each person reacts differently. Sudden detoxification can lead to severe headaches, skin irritations and bad breath. For this reason Gudrun is reluctant to prescribe a specific exclusion diet, though she is happy to recommend some cleansing drinks to help to detoxify the system.

- 1) Mix one whole lemon in a blender with olive oil and water to create a system-cleansing drink.
- 2) Simmer olive leaves in water for about 12 hours, drain liquid and drink in the morning to cleanse the liver.
- 3) Warm water with lemon and ginger.
- 4) Cider vinegar mixed with warm water.



## Gut reaction that can lead you to better health

IN THE study of Gudrun Jonsson's flat in west London is a biotron. It is a machine that sits on a table next to a large, battered black chair, like the one used in *Mastermind*. The biotron is small and unremarkable and you scarcely notice it as you enter Ms Jonsson's study, but it is indispensable to her work as a biopath.

"Sit down, take off your socks and hold this," she says, handing you a metal rod that stretches on a long lead from the biotron. She then presses a pencil-shaped stylus also attached to the machine against numerous acupuncture points on your hands and feet.

"I am measuring the electrical charges coming from your body to test your energy levels," she says. "This offers a guide to which organs are active and which inactive and to the origins of any problems you have. We need to establish the extent of the toxicity of your gut. But if your digestive system is perfect, your health is normally perfect, too."

Toxic guts, fermentation, biotrons — the world of alternative medicine generates an exotic and arcane vocabulary. But Ms Jonsson is no crank. Her inclusive approach to weight problems and stress-induced illness — combining homeopathy, nutritional advice and reflexology — has had remarkable results. Her patients include actors, artists, media tycoons, newspaper editors and numerous royals.

Although often described as "the Duchess of York's food guru", she bristles when asked about the duchess. She denounces Madame Vasso, the disgraced faith healer from Greece who published her taped telephone conversations with the duchess in a book, *The Duchess of York Uncensored*.

"I never discuss my clients. I think what Madame Vasso did was an ultimate betrayal of the trust that her client had put in her."

Gudrun Jonsson is a tall, striking Swede. At 54 she wears no make-up and has a flawless complexion. Her blonde hair is thick and healthy. But she did not always look so radiant. Twenty years ago, she says, she was "badly overweight, chronically constipated and had bad skin". Her hair was also falling out. "I remember combing my hair and whole chunks coming out in my hands."

She feels her deteriorating health was a symptom, not only of a disordered life but of decades of bad eating. Born in Sweden in 1943, the daughter of a farmer, she grew up in Ormskär, a remote village in the far north. The spectacular but severe landscape of her childhood — with its long, dark winters and thick mists — contributed to her poor diet.

"We were a typical northern European family. We never had many vegetables. I continued to eat badly when I moved to England. I would never have taken charge of my body if I hadn't started

losing my hair. After that, I started studying diet, eating better and generally looking after myself."

The loss of her hair coincided with a difficult phase in her life. Before moving to London in 1971, she worked as a primary school teacher in Stockholm. She originally came to London to join her boyfriend, but that relationship ended only three weeks after her arrival.

Her pride stopped her returning immediately to Sweden. So began her restless years, working in restaurants and hotels, as a chauffeur and a travel agent, and as head of a company manufacturing jeans in Manchester. She also had a brief, unsuccessful marriage.

"I don't regret anything about those years," she says. "My husband was a nice man but I was his third wife and he is now on his fifth. As for all the jobs, well, I like to think that without those experiences I would not have been able to understand people's problems."

Biopathy was founded by Kurt Nicolson, Danish author and therapist, who took many of his ideas from existing therapies in Germany. Ms Jonsson was intrigued by the therapy after reading about it in a book she received for Christmas. She saved some money to pay for her training in Denmark.

"I WAS attracted to biopathy because it aims to activate the self-healing forces within each individual through the combined use of natural treatments and remedies," she says. "People are waking up to the importance of preventing illness through adapting their lifestyle and diet. Reducing your stress level is a good example of a simple precaution people can take."

Ms Jonsson is a person who makes you feel good. She laughs continually; her conversation is engaging.

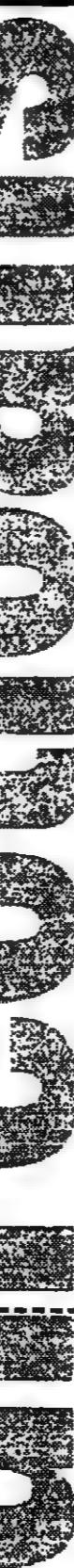
Looking back over her early years in London, Gudrun has few regrets. Though she spends most nights in the week alone, she never feels lonely. Her weekends are shared with friends in the country, where she swims and relaxes. She says: "If you work closely with people all day, you need time alone to recover your sense of perspective. I think it would take a special man to put up with my daily routine."

And what a routine. On waking she has a cup of warm water with added lemon and ginger, followed by a cold bath and some stretching exercises. The morning and afternoon are spent with patients, but the evening is hers in which to read, relax and meditate. The day ends with another bath — a warm one this time, laced with homeopathic potions.

For more information write to Gudrun Jonsson, Flat 2, 73 Holland Road, London W14 8HL. Please enclose an A4 stamped addressed envelope.

JASON COWLEY

### UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS



12.3% APR\*

The Royal Bank of Scotland

12.9% APR\*

Midland Bank

13.9% APR\*

National Westminster Bank

13.9% APR\*

Co-operative Bank

14.9% APR\*

TSB Bank

14.9% APR\*

Barclays Bank

12.3% APR

WITH INTEREST rates from

YOU CAN afford to borrow more

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0800 121 125

FOR FREE INFORMATION CALL 0800 121 12



... and Giles Whittell on a food fad that is taking America by storm

# ZONING

**Health-obsessed Americans are turning to a new guru who says not all fat is bad**

"**SEXY, SWEATY, SCULPED,**" promise the big red words outside Todd Tramp's body-sculpting gym in Hollywood, California.

It would be helpful if somebody added "... and obsessed with a modish nutritional fad called zoning."

Todd Tramp is one of dozens of shrines to the perfect body that litter the world's capital of narcissism. In Hollywood's gyms you are measured by your waistline and your muscle definition, which is why it is strange to find so

many regulars gushing about a new diet with twice the fat and a little more than half the carbohydrate intake recommended by the US Surgeon General.

Madonna, Steven Seagal, Oliver Stone and even the Clintons are all said to be ardent converts to zoning. And miraculously lighter for it. They eat avocados but not carrots, and cheese without

the macaroni, and almost certainly could not tell you why.

Their guru is Dr Barry Sears, a former researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology whose book *Enter The Zone* has been in *The New York Times* best-seller list since its publication in summer 1995.

At the heart of his hotly disputed thesis is the notion

that dietary fat is not the main cause of excess body fat. Carbohydrates are. Specifically, mountains of bread and pasta obediently swallowed by millions of Americans on low-fat, high-carb diets, and converted to fat by their bodies for want of anything else to do with it.

"You fatten cattle by feeding them lots of low-fat grain," writes Mr Sears. "How do you

fatten humans? Same way: you feed them lots and lots of low-fat grain." And after a decade of emphasis by public health officials on the supposed merits of high-density carbohydrates, obesity in America is up by 22 per cent.

Sears believes that food is not just fuel for the human machine. It also controls our hormone levels — or, more often, throws them out of balance.

The solution is apparently to eat always "in the Zone". Certain "good" carbohydrates and proteins, the theory goes, when ingested in the right proportions, can boost production of human growth hormone and moderate that of insulin, which, Sears says is the main culprit in triggering the creation of body fat.

This hood claims that "Zone-favourable" eating can help protect you against heart disease, cancer and AIDS; can stretch your life-span towards the maximum of 115 years; can enhance something called "emotional performance"; and can put you permanently into the zone (that word again) of euphoria-heightened physical achievement hitherto known only to athletes at their peak.

Such claims are misleading, say mainstream nutritionists. Based on theories, not lab tests, Sears's work "looks scientific but wouldn't pass muster within the discipline of clinical nutrition", says Wayne Callaway, who has helped to draw up dietary guidelines for the US government.

In particular, experts have attacked Sears's ideas on a food-hormone link. "No diet is going to control hormones the way he claims," says Ellen Coleman, a writer on nutrition. "He's creating false hope for people trying to lose weight."

Maybe, but he seems to have worked wonders with athletes. In the build-up to the 1992 Olympics, he was invited to work with Stanford University's swimming team. He put them in the Zone and they won eight Olympic gold medals

that year and the US college championship for the following three.

The basics of zoning are as follows. Eat little but often (Zone nerds suggest five times a day) and always, but always, eat 40 per cent carbohydrate to 30 per cent fat and 30 per cent protein. Your "carbs" should have a low glycaemic index, meaning they break down slowly into simple sugars.

Pitta bread is good, says Sears; pasta bad. Your fat should be mono-unsaturated, like olive oil, not polyunsaturated, like deep-frying grease. And your protein can come from almost anywhere, including red meat.

A mantra repeated reverently

## TOMORROW

DAY TWO: THE DISCOVERY DIET GUIDE

● EATING  
*Take The Acid Test.  
What is your perfect pH balance and why does it matter so much?*



● BODY SHAPE:  
*The diet that changed my life by Royal Ballet Principal Deborah Bull*

a large green salad with French dressing (three blocks). For snacks, Zone-favourable Biozone bars will do nicely.

DIY enthusiasts will need patience and a clear head to plan their Zone diet. Alternatively, Todd Tramp's offers a £375, 12-week course complete with a personal trainer.

Dr John Kowalczyk, a busy urologist, is almost there. He used to breakfast on coffee and doughnuts and had a spare tyre to show for it. Three months into zoning, he looks great. He probably could have achieved the same result by eating less and exercising more, but what fun would that have been outside the Zone?



In this one portion of a "turbocharged" vegetable could provide the same nutrients as five "normal" fruit and vegetables

## Super-greens, super health

**IF EATING greens is good for you, what about supergreens?**

At the laboratories of the Institute of Food Research (IFR) in Norwich, scientists are breeding better broccoli, enriched in the chemicals responsible for its health benefits.

If and when these turbocharged vegetables hit the market, it should be possible to meet the dietary requirement of five portions of fruit and vegetables each day by eating only one or two. Reinforced in "goodies", these vegetables should protect us from cancer and heart disease without the struggle of stuffing down greens morning, noon and night.

Down in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, Nigel Gifford is taking a different tack. His company, Herbiforce Natural Products, is selling a food supplement called Revital consisting of the same kinds of chemicals, formulated in a capsule. He expects them to earn a place in the kitchen cabinet alongside vitamins and fish oil capsules.

The key to both these developments are phytochemicals — natural constituents of plants that are neither protein, fibre nor vitamin, but which research has shown can confer powerful health benefits. Dr John Wilkinson of Middlesex University, says that 40,000 such chemicals are known, but that we are only beginning to understand how they function.

If you believe the phytochemical enthusiasts, these substances can cure all human ills from Aids to hot flushes. Plants have, of course, provided the basis for many powerful drugs — about a quarter of the drugs on the market have botanical origins — and the pharmaceuti-

cal companies continue the search, but Dr Wilkinson believes that the future emphasis on phytochemicals will be different. He says that it may be impossible to isolate a particular chemical and sell it as a drug, because what matters is the synergistic effects of a whole orchestra of phytochemicals.

If so, phytochemicals will occupy a middle ground between drugs and foods: they will be nutraceuticals, foods or food supplements that confer health benefits. Proving those benefits to the satisfaction of scientists may be difficult, however.

At the Norwich laboratories of the IFR and at the John Innes Centre, studies have been done on Brussels sprouts and broccoli. Sprouts contain a chemical called sinigrin, which Dr Ian Johnson, of IFR, has shown can suppress the growth of precancerous cells. The breakdown product of sinigrin, allyl isothiocyanate, responsible for the characteristic sprout smell, is the active ingredient, and it works by persuading the precancerous cells to commit suicide. So powerful is the effect, Dr Johnson told *New Scientist*, that he believes even an occasional meal containing sprouts could destroy these cells in the colon.

THE RANGE of plant chemicals with identifiable effects is enormous. The cruciferous vegetables — broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, kale and kohlrabi — contain isothiocyanates and indoles, both of which have anti-cancer properties. The research at the IFR, says Dr Gary Williamson, involves breeding broccoli with higher levels of the isothiocyanate called sul-

phoraphane. "The levels are low in commercial broccoli," he says. "Brussels sprouts have more of this chemical but they are not as popular."

He hopes to begin taste-testing the newly bred broccoli in the summer. The taste will be crucial, because if the extra levels of sulphoraphane have made the broccoli unpalatable, nobody is likely to want it however much good it does them.

The wide range of phytochemicals, combined with uncertainty about how they achieve their effects, is likely to leave consumers bewildered. It is not clear, for example, whether individual phytochemicals are effective on their own or whether they work only in concert with other phytochemicals. Dr Wilkinson points to the attempts to prove the effects of beta-carotene, a vitamin precursor found in carrots and green vegetables, as an example of how the reductionist approach may fail. Taken in the form of tablets, beta-carotene has failed in two trials to produce the health benefits so confidently predicted.

This means that phytochemicals may never aspire to the same standard of proof as drugs, which are rigorously tested in double-blind trials. Dr Wilkinson is unconvinced by this: "I'm a scientist, but I'm an open-minded scientist," he says. "I don't see the double-blind trial as the be-all and end-all."

With a health service increasingly looking towards evidence-based medicine, however, it is possible that phytochemicals will find it difficult to get established.

NIGEL HAWKES

## FOR UNRIVALLED SPECIFICATION AND UNPARALLELED VALUE... CALL MAPLE!

MAPLE Minerva Multimedia Systems



MAPLE MINERVA MODEL 101 PI64+ SPECIFICATION

- PI64+ Processor manufactured by IBM
- 256 MB RAM - 8 Speed CD-ROM Drive
- 1.4GB Enhanced IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 16MB VGA RAM, 30% faster than conventional RAM
- INTEGRATED 3Dfx Voodoo Graphics (16M VRAM, 256 Colors)
- 100% Win 95 Compatible
- MITSUMI Serial Mouse & MAPLE Mouse Pad
- MITSUMI 17" TFT Monitor 1280x800x16bit
- MITSUMI 100W Power Supply
- LOTUS SmartSuite '96 Full Version with Back-Up CD
- MINERVA "Lifestyle" 35 Tide + 6 CD-ROM Pack
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Vibe C SoundCard
- Creative Labs SoundBlaster Vibe C SoundCard
- MITSUBISHI 15" 1440x900 Color Monitor
- MITSUBISHI 15" 1440x900 Color Monitor

Maple is a subsidiary of Canada's largest privately owned PC manufacturing group, with plants spanning Canada, the USA and the UK.

The specification and value of our systems speaks volumes, so whatever "January Sale Offers" you may be considering, when you take a closer look you'll find they don't hold a candle to Maple.

Maple deliver a carefully chosen PI64+ Processor based range of three Minerva Multimedia systems and three Matrix Business systems, each with a host of Software suites and quality printer options included in the price.

"No Compromise", "No Hidden Extras", "Unparalleled Value" - that's Maple. We guarantee it!

PACK INCLUDES THE HEWLETT-PACKARD DESKJET 850 COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

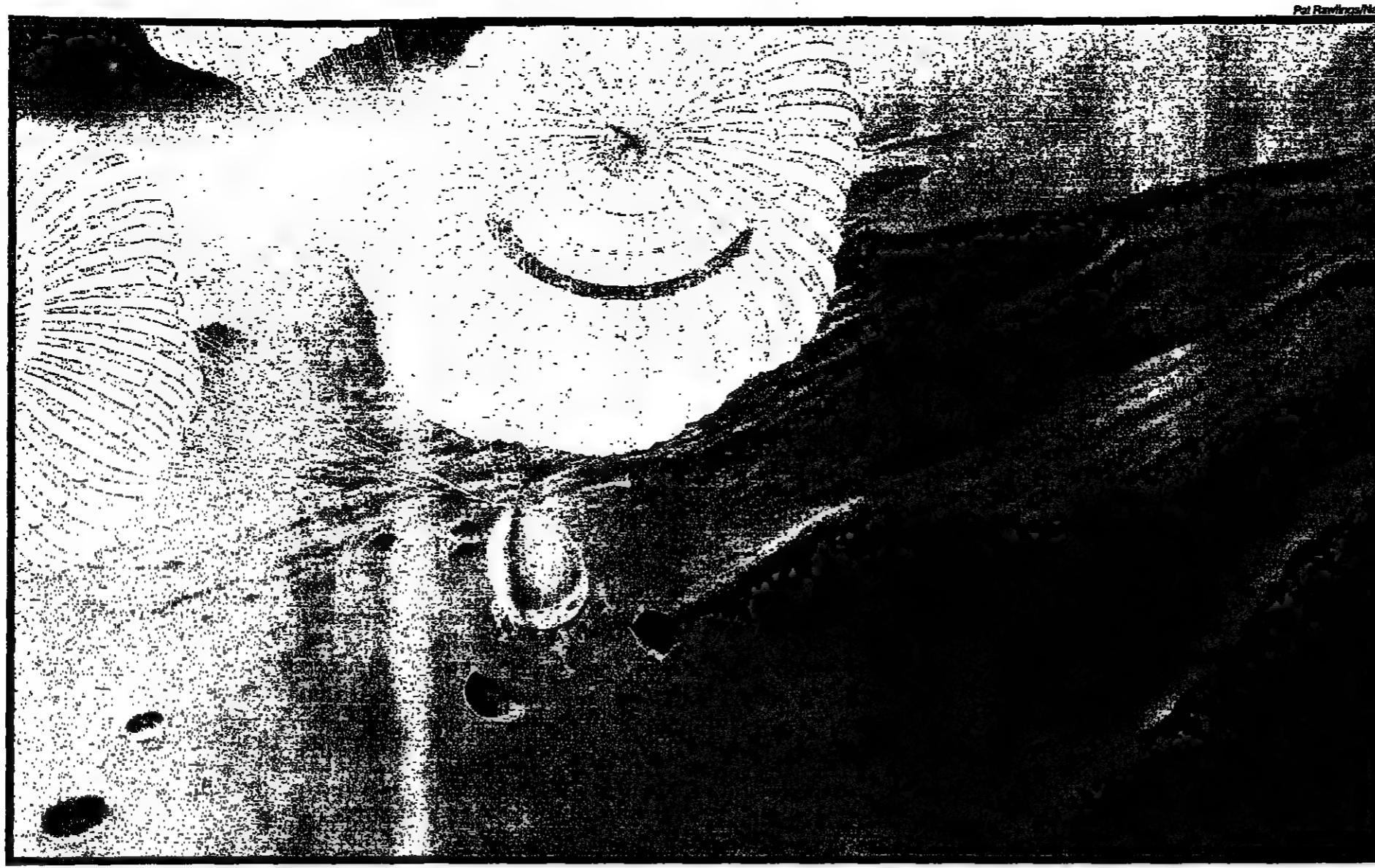
WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

WICCO COLOUR PRINTER, FULL VERSION - COMPAQ WORDPROCESSOR SUITE 7 & LOTUS SMARTSUITE '96 PRE-LOADED + THE 35 TIDE + CD "MINERVA LIFESTYLE" CD-ROM PACK

Giles Whittell on Nasa's plans to send astronauts to Mars and Nigel Hawkes on dangers to interplanetary voyagers



Mars landing: the painting *Descent into the Chasm* portrays how the fall of the expedition to the Ganges Chasma floor is slowed by the spacecraft's main parachutes

## Next stop, the Red Planet

**W**anted: interplanetary guinea-pigs willing to go without fresh air, gravity and probably sex for three years. Must be fit and unflappable, with at least a master's degree in engineering or applied science. Successful applicants will be in close proximity to nuclear power plants for long periods and must remain calm while hurtling through space at 27,000mph. Years of medical testing and media exposure will be inevitable should you survive.

Not yet. But sooner than you might think. As a new wave of unmanned American probes heads for Mars, and an ill-starred Russian one sits at the bottom of the Pacific, Nasa's chief, Daniel Goldin, has said he has no fixed plans yet for sending people after them. But this does not mean no such plans exist. They do, and they are extraordinarily detailed.

Since claiming to have found traces of Martian life in an asteroid, Nasa has made available an engrossing 33-page booklet, *Human Mars Exploration*, that makes getting there sound safer than choosing a nanny. There are only two problems, according to Donna Shirley, of the space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. "It's a three-year round trip, no matter how you slice it," she says. And it's expensive.

When President Bush declared that America should aim to put people on

Mars by the year 2019, Nasa said it would cost a staggering \$400 billion (£266 billion). President Clinton has so far stopped short of repeating the challenge, since such sums were not to be talked of in an election year. His tacit message to scientists has been: come up with something cheaper.

They have. In the name of value-for-money, Nasa has all but abandoned the notion of a "plant-the-flag" trip designed simply to get to Mars and back as fast as possible. The latest plan, honed for public consumption by David Weaver and Michael Duke, of Houston's Johnson Space Centre, puts astronauts on the Red Planet for a daunting 30-month stint of roving, mining and refuelling, with plenty of time to hunt for Martian life-forms.

The plan is based around one cost-cutting idea: make most of the fuel for the return journey on Mars. Scientists agree that the principle of using liquid hydrogen brought from Earth to extract methane and liquid oxygen from carbon dioxide in Mars's atmosphere is simple enough. Based on the so-called Sabatier process, it follows straightforward chemical equations and would have water as its only by-product.

The mission would unfold as follows: blasting off on top of a conventional Delta rocket in September 2007, the astronauts' empty

return module would head for Mars and park in orbit above the distant planet one year and 450 million miles later. (As the Apollo programme proved, a single burn of a booster is enough to keep a capsule coasting along almost indefinitely at seven to eight miles a second. In this case "nuclear thermal" engines would be used to escape Earth's orbit, then jettisoned on a course that would not encounter Earth or Mars for at least 10 million years — or so we are assured.)

Closely following the outbound return module in the autumn of 2007 would be two more unmanned cargo vehicles, both designed to slow down in Mars's orbit and release landing craft into Ganges Chasma, a deep canyon near the planet's equator. Once there, one cargo pod would deploy a nuclear-powered chemical plant to spend the next two years creating the 30 cubic metres of rocket fuel necessary to return a crew to Mars's orbit. The other, a "surface habitat/laboratory", would sit and wait for human beings.

In late 2009, three more payloads head for Mars. The first two are identical to the first 2007 launches, providing back-up in the event of mishaps and extra resources for future missions. The last contains six astronauts, cooped up for six months

in a two-storey cylinder not much bigger than a removal van.

In an exquisite understatement the Weaver/Duke plan admits that "in the transits to Mars, the chief problems will be concerned with maintaining interpersonal relationships needed for crew productivity ... Mental health as well as physical health will be crucial."

Nobody knows for certain how to stop astronauts going stir-crazy on their way to Mars. They may have to rely on CD-Roms and Sony Walkmans. Sadly, permitting them will stick into an elliptical Martian orbit in mid-2010, using the planet's outer atmosphere as an "aerobrake". Parachutes and retro-rockets lower them gently into Ganges Chasma; next to the habitat put there two years earlier. Joined by an airlock, these two pods form the crew's base for the next 500 days — roughly a Martian year.

What happens next depends on what our emissaries find, but Nasa's graphics department makes it look like a space-suited Outward Bound adventure. Long-range rovers let the crew stray up to 500km from base in their hunt for useful resources and signs of life beneath the planet's frigid crust. They could even abseil down the east face of Olympus Mons, a volcano the size of Arizona thought to contain answers to some of the mysteries of Martian geology.

In October 2011, they head for home. Leaving behind an intact base, a tiny rocket-powered ascent vehicle docks with the larger return module which by this time has been in orbit round Mars for nearly four years. Six months later the astronauts re-enter Earth's atmosphere much as their lone predecessors did, and just too late to wish their replacement crew a pleasant trip.

I enough work were farmed out to private contractors, putting a base on Mars during these times could cost a mere \$10 billion, according to Robert Zubrin, author of the recently published *The Case for Mars*. Perhaps most remarkably, the technology for the entire scheme already exists. As Donna Shirley says, there is "no elusive "unobtainium".

To keep his scientists' feet on the ground, Daniel Goldin has posted on Nasa's Internet website some stern prerequisites for a manned Mars mission, including completion of the international space station and the little matter of a global economic upswing. But there is no doubting where the next Neil Armstrong's foot will land: Nasa's "core mission", Congress stated as recently as 1993, "is, and depends upon, the extension of human presence beyond Planet Earth". No one ever gave Columbus such encouragement.

## The hazards of travel from Earth to Mars

**T**he first astronauts to visit Mars will face dangers that Nasa has yet to take fully into account, according to an expert group from the US National Research Council.

The long journey will expose them to high radiation doses from cosmic rays, which could cause cancer, cataracts, sterility and brain damage, the council says in its report.

Unless efforts to assess the dangers of exposure to cosmic rays are stepped up, it will be at least 20 years before adequate data is available.

The result will be that Nasa will have to err on the side of caution, surrounding the Martian mission with large amounts of material.

Over a relatively short period the intensity of bombardment the astronauts can expect.

At present Nasa uses particle accelerators for only 100 or so hours a year, not enough to gather the information, the panel says. It suggests that the agency should consider

small fraction of the total risk of space travel. For example, he says, a transatlantic airline pilot could expect over a 25-year career to be exposed to about half the dose experienced by an astronaut on a two-and-a-half-year mission to Mars.

Nasa is doing research on the subject, but too slowly, the NRC report says. To gather the data involves using a particle accelerator to expose animals to the same kind of high-energy particles that the astronauts will experience in space.

The panel suggests that animals will have to be exposed to the particles for about 3,000 hours, simulating over a relatively short period the intensity of bombardment the astronauts can expect.

Such extra costs could easily tipper the entire mission, according to Dr Richard Setlow, associate director for life sciences at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, who chaired the NRC committee which prepared the report. "When I first saw those figures I was horrified," he told *New Scientist*.

Cosmic radiation has always been recognised as a hazard of space travel, but previous missions have been too short for it to have had significant effects. A manned probe to Mars would take several years, so the risks have to be taken seriously. They may turn out to be exaggerated, the NRC panel says, but until the research is done no one knows.

Robert Zubrin, an enthusiast for Mars exploration, estimates that cosmic-ray doses for the Mars round-trip would be of the order of 50 rem. This is many times higher than that permitted for radiation workers, never mind ordinary members of the public, but Dr Zubrin argues that it is a building its own accelerator, at a cost of about £15 million, and spend a few tens of millions more doing the experiments. This is far less than the cost of shielding a Mars mission against a worst-case scenario, Dr Setlow says. "Obviously, it would be cheaper to do the experiments."

**H**owever, the experiments are done, several questions need to be answered, the NRC says, including assessing the risks of cancer, genetic damage and damage to the central nervous system, and whether and how the design of the craft and its shielding can reduce these risks.

Dr Frank Sizman, acting deputy director of Nasa's life sciences division, says that tight budgets may make it difficult to find the money for the cosmic ray safety experiments. "Doing more in one area probably means doing less in another," he says.

**P**ROBLEMS who suffer from it get fed up. Just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in treating this embarrassing condition *painlessly*. I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London WC1X 5PA. Call them on 0171 637 2018, now!

### What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOLENCE"

**T**o us

General courses: All levels - 2-4 hours/week

## French

Crash courses: All levels - 4 weeks - 15 hours/week

isn't

Business French: Advanced only - 15 weeks - 4 hours/week

## second

In company tuition: All levels - General & Business French

## nature,

Tuition for children: At child's school - At home

it's first.

Call now for a free brochure: 0171 723 7471

**AFF**  
Alliance Française de Londres  
1 Dorset Square,  
London NW1 6PL  
Sponsored by the French Government  
Registered charity no. 27652

### □ Chemical oddball □ Webs of steel □ Blocking Alzheimer's

## Shrinking in the heat

Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York State. The properties of the material are further explored in a paper in the current issue of *Science*.

Materials expand when heated for a simple reason. The hotter they are, the more their molecules vibrate, and the greater the space they need to do it in. Zirconium tungstate is different. It consists of atoms of zirconium and tungsten linked through ox-

ygen atoms. As it is heated, these links tend to bend, like an arm bending at the elbow. The result is to bring the zirconium and tungsten atoms closer together, causing the material to shrink.

The latest paper reports what happens to zirconium tungstate under high pressure. The team found that its crystal structure tends to collapse, and the material loses much of its negative thermal expansion. But it

quickly recovers it when heated, suggesting that it might be used in a composite to serve as some kind of shock absorber. "A material with this type of behaviour might be able to absorb an explosive force and somewhat regain its shape," Professor Sleight says.

There are plenty of other potential applications. One

is in dental fillings, which tend to fall out as they become loosened by the cycle of heating and cooling from hot and cold foods. A new composite containing zirconium tungstate, which is non-toxic and could probably be made in tooth-like colours, might provide a perfect match with the expansion of natural teeth.

Another application might be as a circuit board whose

changes on heating matched the electronic circuits attached to the board, or as the material for scientific instruments such as telescope mirrors, which lose their perfect shape when their temperature changes.

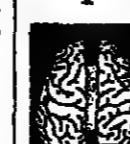
### Black widow's silky strength



THE silk that is spun by the black widow spider is as strong as Kevlar, the synthetic fibre used in bulletproof vests, an American scientist has discovered. That makes it several times stronger than the silk spun by other spiders, according to Dr Anne Moore of Scripps College in Claremont, California.

Now Dr Moore plans to study silk from other parts of the web and identify the chemical ingredients that provide it with its remarkable properties.

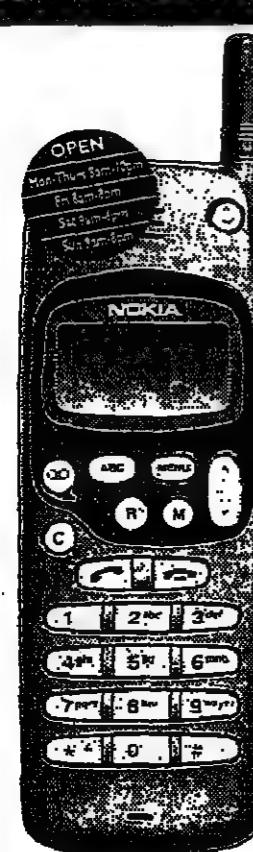
### Moss enzyme stops dementia



*Hyperzia serrata* is the moss used as a source of Hyperzine A, a substance which binds to the enzyme acetylcholinesterase. In the January issue of *Nature Structural Biology*, the Weizmann team reports the three-dimensional structure of the complex, showing that the natural substance fits precisely into the place in the enzyme where it is most likely to block its action.

The symptoms of Alzheimer's are caused by deficiencies in acetylcholine, which might be corrected by inhibiting the enzyme that breaks it down. Several drugs designed to do this are on trial, but Hyperzine A does it so precisely that it might prove potent in low doses, thus causing relatively few side-effects.

## SAVE £160 IN YOUR FIRST YEAR



FREE 12 MONTHS LINE RENTAL WORTH £31.12 inc VAT  
FREE 15 HOURS CALLS EVERY MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS AT 10p/min  
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE  
FREE CAR ADAPTOR  
100 HOUR BATTERY  
PER SECOND BILLING  
FREE next day delivery  
Conditions apply. See www.dial-a-phone.co.uk for full details.  
15p (11.42p inc VAT) 25p (41.3p inc VAT)  
per min per sec  
Off peak calls. Peak rate calls.  
4 DAY LEAD TIME ON MOBILE CONTRACT

£9.99  
Ref: CT10601  
Dial-a-phone

Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-phone now on Freephone  
**0800 00 00 77**  
24 hours



## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### ■ VISUAL ART

Two new London shows provide the opportunity to assess the latest paintings by Germany's Anselm Kiefer  
OPEN: Now  
REVIEW: Tomorrow



### ■ RECITALS

Anthony Payne is the featured composer in the Park Lane Group's Young Artists Series on the South Bank  
CONCERTS: All week  
REVIEWS: From tomorrow



### ■ THEATRE

Hollywood meets rural Ireland in Martin McDonagh's new play at the National, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*.  
OPENS: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



Italian conductor Antonio Pappano makes his concert debut with the LSO conducting Tchaikovsky's Fifth  
CONCERT: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday

**T**he best essay I have ever read is *My First Acquaintance with Poets* by Hazlitt. I thought so at 16. I have thought so periodically ever since — most recently last Boxing Day. Bacon may be a ground-breaker and the more perfect, Orwell, the latest great British essayist on whom we can have a proper purchase, is the more pertinent. But William Hazlitt tops them all for passion, power and recklessness.

In this essay alone he tells the story of several key encounters in his life — principally his first meetings with the poets Coleridge and Wordsworth. He describes with devoted clarity a father, a dissenting minister, marooned in the country, embroiled in the study of "The Commentator" — huge folios, not easily got through, one of which would outlast a winter; he brings to life the conversation of Coleridge, our most philosophical poet; he leads us into a foreign society of week-long walks by young new male friends with talk as the stimulus; he argues his

corner on metaphysics, tells us how from "a deep sleep" he came to an ability to articulate "my admiration to others in molley imagery and quaint altuson"; delivers a fusillade of said allusions (which intoxicated me as an adolescent and stuffed my style till it burst like an overdone sausage); reveals both the depths of a young failure — "I was at that time dumb, inarticulate, helpless, like a worm by the wayside, crushed, bleeding, lifeless" — and the great awakening by the poet: "the light of his genius shone into my soul like the sun's rays glittering in the puddles of the road". He twists and turns from ecstasy to utter bleakness of autobiography, and the whole essay flows together in a cataclysm of clear speaking prose.

He is wrong, too, now and then, which is always comforting in a hero. He describes the face of

Coleridge in detail and ends with the words "but his nose, the rudder of the face, the index of the will, was small, feeble, nothing — like what he has done". This was to underestimate Coleridge's extant poetry and, more pardonsly, to ignore the riches which would later be discovered among what seemed a waste of talent but was a prodigality so vast that it blinded the age it addressed.

Hazlitt for me was like Coleridge for Hazlitt. And the exhilaration he expresses for and the gratitude he gives to Coleridge I have for years given to Hazlitt.

In one particular instance I made an attempt to repay the debt. Having read his essays on juggling as well as Poussin, on boxing as well as Shakespeare, I thought I knew a rounded man who did not cut his subject out of a false sense of intellectual dignity. Twenty

young serving girl. A frenzy which led him to divorce, to alienate his son, to distress his friends and delight his enemies. "I am in some sense proud that I can feel this dreadful passion," he wrote. "It makes me a kind of peer in the kingdom of love." The girl would not have him and at the time a friend declared that he was "substantially insane". Even this he turned into writing. "The passions intercept and warp the natural progress of life," he wrote. "They paralyse all that is not devoted to their tyranny and caprice."

I was shocked to read this, about a writer I thought I knew so well. I wrote a novel, *A Time To Dance*, taking the central notion from *Liber Amoris* paying, as I hoped, a tribute to Hazlitt by introducing a lecture about him inside the book. After finishing my novel I realised that far from being an exception in

Hazlitt's life and work, *Liber Amoris* was the key to it.

There are fine essays still and undoubtedly some will survive. There are still rapturous encounters between young disciples and masters, though it seems to me that it happens more often now in films and music than in literature. And there are still writers prepared to hurl their lives into the essay form often thought of as antique, but one which still rides high in the broadsheets and magazines.

None, though, I think, brings so much to bear with the welter of knowledge, the detailed enthusiasm and the exposure of a blighted desperate self as the dissenting minister's son who got up before daylight one bitter cold January morning 199 years ago to walk the ten miles to Shrewsbury to hear a sermon.

UNDERSTANDABLE glee has been expressed across the country at the news that we are reading more. Moreover, there is the satisfying subtext that this is one in the eye for the philistine television and a biff in the solar plexus for the new monster face replacing it.

The news is indeed welcome but is it so very surprising? We have known for ages that television, if anything, encourages book-buying in this country. We know that many more people are in university education and therefore a larger proportion of the population will develop bookish appetites. Add to that early retirement and the first society in which unprecedeted numbers are thinking about cultivating their leisure as variously as possible, and the ground is laid.

What kept people back from reading in the good old days was lack of education, lack of opportunity, and exhaustion. A good deal of that is gone. Books could be the 21st century's hot stock.

CINEMA: Once again the British are tipped for top Oscar honours, led by Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies*. Matt Wolf on the contenders

# Hollywood, here we come

**T**he British presence in America's annual film honours is a reassuring fact, but even in comparison with recent years, Britain's cachet at the moment puts us a league apart. With Oscar nominations still five weeks away, home-grown talents set to feature in virtually every category when the prizes are handed out at the end of March.

Not for the first time, Britain is benefiting from a growing feeling that if you want qual-

ity, you've got to go British, since too much native Hollywood talent is content to shoot itself in the foot (Jack, anyone?).

How else to explain the critical and commercial failures in America of such anticipated films as *Surviving Picasso*, one of the few Merchant-Ivory projects unlikely to be feted come Oscar time; *That Thing You Do!*, the debut directing effort of two-time Oscar-winner Tom Hanks; and even Barbara Streisand's *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, which has done

decent, but hardly spectacular, business (it opens in Britain on Friday).

Instead, the trade papers are busy trumpeting such unfamiliar — at least in Hollywood — names as Mike Leigh for best director for *Secrets and Lies*, as well as the same film's Brenda Blethyn, and Emily Watson from *Breaking the Waves*, as best actress.

Could Leigh possibly step

up to a podium occupied last year by Mel Gibson, the quintessential Hollywood-player? Might Blethyn snare the nomination earmarked for perennial nominee Meryl Streep, who is under consideration this year for *Marvin's Room*, an art-house film co-starring Diane Keaton?

Stranger things have happened. *Secrets and Lies* swept the prizes at the recent Los Angeles Film Critics Awards ceremony, and at a time when studio films are getting ever more bloated, an independently financed underdog may carry unusual clout.

Leigh isn't the only Hollywood anomaly finding favour across the Atlantic. Paul Scofield won an Oscar in 1966 for *A Man For All Seasons*, only to follow it up with such little-seen esoterica as *A Delicate Balance* and *1919*. In recent years, though, the 74-year-old actor has enjoyed a screen comeback with supporting performances in *Quiz Show* and now *The Crucible*, and Hollywood likes nothing better than an old-timer it can rediscover. (American veterans trading on the same phenomenon include Lauren Bacall and Debbie Reynolds.)

Scofield's *Crucible* director, the British opera and theatre director Nicholas Hytner, has the full studio support of Twentieth Century Fox for what is only his second film, and both Hytner and the film's star, Daniel Day-Lewis, would be almost certain Oscar hopefuls if that film — like many others — had not been at least partly eclipsed by yet another year-end release packed with British talent. *The English Patient*.

**W**ith seven nominations, Anthony Minghella's adaptation of Michael Ondreje's novel leads the field for the forthcoming Golden Globes, to be awarded in Los Angeles on January 19. And though Scott Hicks's Australian hit *Shine* is hot on its heels, *The English Patient* may just be the answer for an Academy electorate for whom *Breaking the Waves* and *Secrets and Lies* are too mar-



Could *Secrets and Lies*, which swept the prizes at the recent Los Angeles Film Critics Awards ceremony, win an Oscar for British director Mike Leigh?



Oscar contender *The Crucible*, directed by Nicholas Hytner

ginal (and, in the case of Lars von Trier's film, too weird). In a stronger year, *The English Patient* would be a dark horse up against the Hollywood blockbuster of the moment. But at a *Gump-less* time, the combined glamour of Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas might well prevail, and Minghella's exotic locations won't hurt.

As for Kenneth Branagh's four-hour *Hamlet*, it is too early to predict the film's commercial fate, but if the Golden Globes are any indication, Branagh's acting-directing effort looks unlikely to repeat the Oscar success of Laurence Olivier's 1948 forebear: despite opening amid

much fanfare on Christmas Day, the Branagh *Hamlet* has been shortlisted for no awards to date.

In terms of competition, Branagh is the first to acknowledge what he is up against. *Secrets and Lies*, he told me in November, "is almost Greek in its impact. It appears to be a small film, but its impact is massive".

Referring to the end-of-year derby that finds selective Britons emerging from a pack of some 30 major films, Hytner says: "It's nuts; I never want to have a movie released at this time again." Although Hytner could be spending these weeks biting his nails by a pool in Los Angeles, he has instead re-

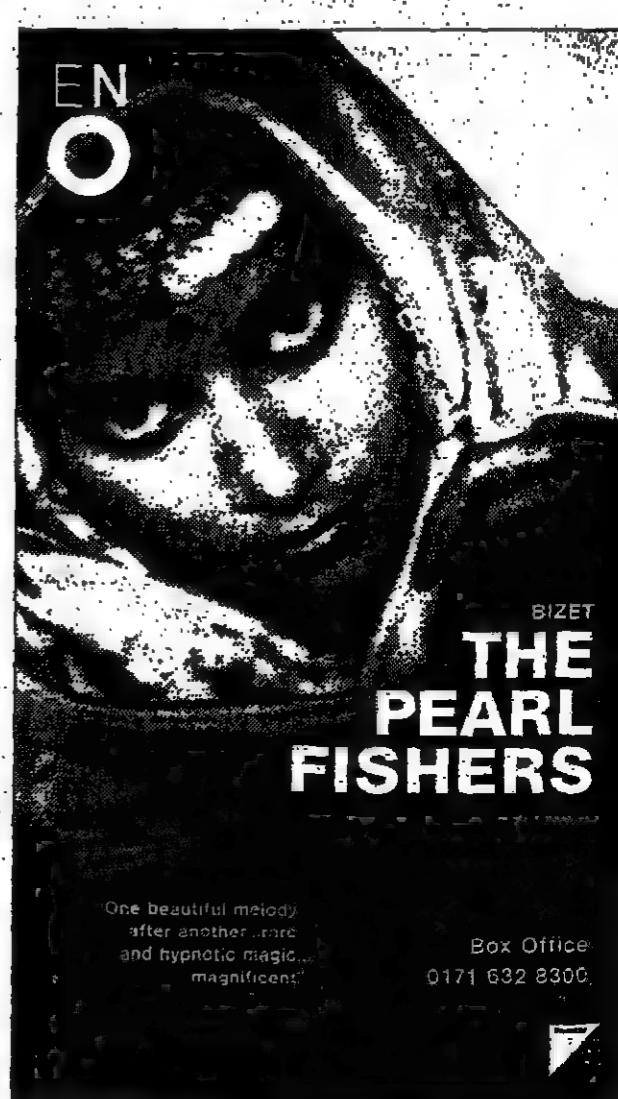
turned to the National Theatre for the first time since 1992 to direct Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, which opens tomorrow night.

"I have to say, one of the attractions of doing this play was that I knew I would be here when *The Crucible* opened," he says. "I wouldn't have to worry about grosses and critics and phone calls and all that. I know that if I were in LA, there would be nothing else to talk about."

**M**inghella, in turn, speaks of "an expectation so high that it's not a good place to begin. The terrible thing is, I hope people aren't disappointed if *The English Patient* doesn't win 20 Academy Awards. So many films now open at the end of the year, you just want yours to have a chance."

Regardless of what prizes these films ultimately do or don't win, none of their creators is likely to cross the Atlantic for good. Despite having a home in Greenwich Village in Manhattan, Hytner is retaining his north London base — "I can't wait to work here again, and I'm always going to do theatre here" — and Minghella's Hampstead house is not far away.

Perhaps the last word on Hollywood should go to an ever-festive Mike Leigh. "If you're asking, would I really work for a Hollywood studio, or would I rather stick needles in my eyeballs, I would say pass me the needles."



BIZET  
**THE PEARL FISHERS**

One beautiful melody after another...and hypnotic magic...magificent...

Box Office 0171 632 8300.

0171 632 8300.

Renewing your home insurance  
in January or February?

If you are  
50 or over,  
you could  
save with  
Saga - call  
us NOW

You will know how expensive home insurance can be.

Thankfully, if you are aged 50 or over you can benefit from SAGA Home Insurance - a superior household insurance that is only available to mature, responsible people like you.

SAGA Home Insurance could offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions.

**The Saga Price Promise**  
If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out SAGA Home Insurance, we will refund you the difference.

**SAGA**  
Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd, FREEPOST 731  
Middlebury Square, Fakenham, CT20 1AZ

Saga Group Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass information to these companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE?



Call us today

For your free no obligation quote simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on SAGA Home Insurance.

• Insurance cover is comprehensive and low cost

• Discounts for home security

• Free pen with your quotation

0800 414 525

quoting reference

TM1701

Lines open Monday to Friday  
8am - 8pm, Saturdays 9am - 8pm

Saga Group Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass information to these companies to enable them to do so.

And why not ask us about our competitive MOTOR INSURANCE?

**This  
week  
at the  
National**

Olivier Theatre

**Guys and Dolls**

A musical fable of Broadway. Based on a story and characters of Damon Runyon.  
Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser  
Book by Jo Swerling  
Tonight, Tomorrow, Thurs 9 & Fri 10 Jan at 7.15pm, Wed 8 & Sat 11 Jan at 2.00pm & 7.15pm and continuing.

Lyttelton Theatre

**Elsinore**

Variations on Shakespeare's Hamlet, a new solo work by Robert Lepage.  
**S Performances Only**  
Tonight, Tomorrow, Thurs 9 & Fri 10 Jan at 7.30pm, Wed 8 & Sat 11 Jan at 2.15pm & 7.30pm

Cottesloe Theatre

**The Cripple of Inishmaan**

A new play by Martin McDonagh.  
Tonight at 7.30pm  
Press Night Fri 10 Jan at 8.00pm  
Sat 11 Jan at 2.00pm & 7.30pm  
& continuing

Platform Performances  
**Runyon Readings**

Terrace Cinema

Mon 13 Jan at 7.30pm  
Jeanette Winterson  
Olivier  
Fri 10 Jan at 7.30pm  
Robert Lepage  
Talks to Richard E. Grant, Elizabeth  
Lynne  
Sat 11 Jan at 2.00pm & 7.30pm  
& continuing

**Royal  
National  
Theatre**

Box Office 0171-928 2252  
First Call 0171-420 0000

## THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

## ■ FILM



Barbra Streisand takes acting, singing and directing credits on her new film, *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. OPENS: Friday. REVIEW: Thursday.

## ■ POP



Norma Waterson, the woman who saw off the Gallagher brothers at the Mercury awards, plays Shepherds Bush GIG: Saturday. REVIEW: Next week.

## ■ DANCE



Anthony Dowell's controversial staging of *The Sleeping Beauty* is revived at Covent Garden. OPENS: Saturday. REVIEW: Next week.

## ■ BOOKS



Ian Sinclair explores the secret history of London in his new book, *Lights Out for the Territory*. IN THE SHOPS: Now. REVIEW: Thursday.

ARTS  
TUESDAY TO  
FRIDAY  
IN SECTION 2

"Lepage's Hamlet is always diverting, often gripping and comes with an abundance of technology"

## Missing the point

## THEATRE:

**Benedict  
Nightingale on  
Elsinore at the  
Lyttelton**

**S**hakespeare's Bottom was cast as Pyramus, but wanted to play Thisbe, the Lion and the Prologue as well. Luckily, he had a firm producer in Peter Quince, who put a stop to his escalating megalomania. Robert Lepage, however, continues to be Hamlet, Claudius, Gertrude, Polonius, Ophelia, Horatio, the Ghost, Laertes, Osric and even a silently toiling gravedigger; in the touring production that is now visiting the National. And there is nobody to check him, for he is adapter and director of *Elsinore* as well as its solo performer.

Lepage's pointed *Hamlet* is always diverting, often gripping and comes with an abundance of technology, not available in Shakespeare's time, let alone Bottom's Athens. But this is a problem as well as a strength. In this programme, the Canadian director has proved that the most important paradox in Hamlet's character is a restraint of the very passion that will enable him to "do what he has to do". But I defy you to see this, or indeed any other distinct interpretation of the original Prince or the original play, amid the compromised contortions of Carl Fisher's ad-lib Elsinore.

On Saturday the mechanics displayed no hint of the gremings that nimbled the production at the last Edinburgh Festival. Towering screens swing together and, with photos of heavy grey bricks played upon them, become the massive walls of Elsinore. Behind these a

central panel rises and falls, tilts and even seems to somersault. Often a rectangular slot appears at its centre, allowing Lepage to play some of the same visual tricks he did in his version of *Coriolanus* three years ago.

At one point you peer through a site-screened by projections of armoured tools to see the head of Polonius babbling away at the foot of Hamlet as he stands like a medieval reader reading "words, words, words". At another, the slowly descending panel engulfs Lepage's Hamlet — and who should emerge from the aperture but the top half of Lepage's Ophelia in Elizabethan drag? Yet another the panel surges up a table that rapidly spins to give the impression that Lepage's Claudius is talking to Lepage's insolently rolling Hamlet. You certainly get the chance to look at Elsinore from odd, interesting angles. Whether you get a similarly revealing purchase on *Hamlet* is another matter.

Though Lepage takes a familiarly with Shakespeare for granted,

his 100-minute condensation is skilfully done. But the quality of his acting is variable. Sometimes his diction is lucid, sometimes a bit scrambled. He also has a maddening mannerism, which is to signal strong emotion by shouting the last words of sentences. Thus: "Now could I drink HOT BLOOD"; "You have my father much OF PENDED"; "There find'st that to be too busy is some DANGER"; "I am not sure he yet ready to play the Prince in a *Hamlet* in which other actors appear.

Still, the virtuous effects provide their own compensation. The murder of Polonius, in which a see-through tapestry lets you watch the swelling silhouette of Hamlet from the old, staid's point of view, is a particular success. Lepage's Claudio, perched in dark glasses on a floating throne and speaking with an electronic echo built into his voice, is a menacing presence. The final scene comes perilously close to burlesque, what with kings and queens and duellists popping out from behind a square pillar successively plastered with projections of their dead faces; but Lepage keeps the titters at bay.

Was it all worth the effort?

Bardophilic may well wonder, but loyal Lepagophiles can reasonably ask some counter-questions. Who else is bringing such imaginative chutzpah to his work? Who else would so boldly use the tools of the future in order to pay homage to the past? Nobody I know.

James Holmes, Opera North's head of music, conducts with vigour and a good sense of theatre. As the people acclaim their monarch with outstretched arms in the first act the chorus, orchestra and on-stage trumpets together create an impressive sound. When the Queen finally signs Essex's death warrant, stage and pit again work together to catch the drama of the moment.

Not everything is on this exalt-

## Josephine the great

IF PHYLLIDA Lloyd's production of *Gloriana* has been one of the brightest jewels in Opera North's crown in recent years, then the current revival confirms Josephine Barstow's assumption of the central role as one of the greatest in the work's near half-century history. When the huge rear doors first swing open to reveal the Queen's imperious figure borne aloft, it is difficult to quell the thoughts that this role belongs to Barstow. In her bearing, her physiognomy, and later both her singing and speaking voices, she incomparably is Gloriana.

Barstow returns to the role three years on with undimmed splendour. Whether flaunting her regality in the public court scenes, displaying her more womanly emotions in response to Essex's lone song, or attracting sympathy in the latter stages as the hunched, balding figure in her private chamber, she rivets the attention. This is a tour de force of theatricality — aided by Lloyd's immensely perceptive and resourceful staging — as much as of vocalisation, although Barstow is never less than magnificent in that department too. Commanding and precise, her tone and diction are as regal as her demeanour; even when stripped of her regalia, you know this is no ordinary woman whose chamber has burst into.

Thomas Randle plays Essex unconventionally: not as a typical

courtier but as an irresponsible head. Interpretation makes sense, giving dramatic credence to Essex's fall from favour, and Randle complements his ardent singing — his "Queen of my Life" salutation is a radiant effusion — with suitably dynamic, indeed gymnastic approach to the physical aspect of the role.

New to the production are Ruth Peele's sympathetic Frances, Countess of Essex, and Susannah Glynn's equally admirable Penelope, Lady Rich. Their contrasting pleas for clemency on behalf of the condemned Essex — the sorrowing mother's concern for her children on the one hand, the defiant courter on the other — are particularly well characterised. Michael John Pearson is the strong new Blind Ballad Singer and Richard Whitehouse, Essex's follower, Henry Cuffe. Karl Daymond returns as Lord Mountjoy and Clive Bayley and Eric Roberts repeat their Raleigh and Cecil.

James Holmes, Opera North's

head of music, conducts with vigour and a good sense of theatre. As the people acclaim their monarch with outstretched arms in the first act the chorus, orchestra and on-stage trumpets together create an impressive sound. When the Queen finally signs Essex's death warrant, stage and pit again work together to catch the drama of the moment.

Thomas Randle plays Essex unconventionally: not as a typical

courtier but as an irresponsible head. Interpretation makes sense, giving dramatic credence to Essex's fall from favour, and Randle complements his ardent singing — his "Queen of my Life" salutation is a radiant effusion — with suitably dynamic, indeed

gymnastic approach to the physical aspect of the role.

James Holmes, Opera North's head of music, conducts with vigour and a good sense of theatre. As the people acclaim their monarch with outstretched arms in the first act the chorus, orchestra and on-stage trumpets together create an impressive sound. When the Queen finally signs Essex's death warrant, stage and pit again work together to catch the drama of the moment.

Not everything is on this exalt-



"Undimmed splendour": Josephine Barstow rules as Gloriana

phy (Kate Flatt) of the massed ball and homage scenes, to the meticulously lit (Rick Fisher), psychologically plausible private encounters, the production is a first-rate achievement. With Barstow at the centre it touches greatness.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## A tale without a powerful hero

IT IS brave of Travelling Opera to feature *Don Giovanni* as one of the three works in its winter-spring season. Not only is Mozart's *drama giocoso* one of the most performed operas in the repertory, making comparisons unavoidable, it is also one of the most difficult: any performance less than brilliantly sung and tightly staged can seem dull indeed. Happily, there is much to enjoy in this modest show — due to tour to parts that other opera companies don't easily reach — but on opening night at the Barbican it was hard not to feel a sense of routine, a lack of dramatic power.

This was a *Don Giovanni* as one of the three works in its winter-spring season. Not only is Mozart's *drama giocoso* one of the most performed operas in the repertory, making comparisons unavoidable, it is also one of the most difficult: any performance less than brilliantly sung and tightly staged can seem dull indeed. Happily, there is much to enjoy in this modest show — due to tour to parts that other opera companies don't easily reach — but on opening night at the Barbican it was hard not to feel a sense of routine, a lack of dramatic power.

## Don Giovanni

Barbican

But there are several performances to enjoy. Melanie Wall discloses a strong soprano as Donna Anna and attacks the difficult role fearlessly, a little too fearlessly at times. Andrew Dale Forbes's excellent Cavaradossi Aria, crisply communicative, sets the tone for strongly detailed singing from his Leporello. Juliet Schleemann's bright Zerlina is a pleasure to hear, and Jeanette Wainwright's slightly too placid Elvira is reliable. There is firm, characterful singing from Nicholas Gedge as Masetto and the Commendatore, and an adequate Ottavio in Ste-

phen Crook. All move well in Claire Young's simple, all-black set; Giles Block's production is, if nothing else, fluent.

The orchestral playing supplies special, unexpected pleasure. Richard Balcombe's reduction of the score, one player to a part, brings a chamber-like quality to the music with only the big dramatic contrasts lacking. The band, all equals here, give a crisp and stylish performance under the light baton of David Gibson, whose considerate support of the singers ensures easy-flowing ensembles throughout.

JOHN ALLISON

## OPERA &amp; BALLET

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**  
0171 585 4542  
English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &  
Mon 11 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**  
13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**  
0171 585 4542  
English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &  
Mat 12 Jan 2.30pm, Sun 13 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**  
13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**  
0171 585 4542  
English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &  
Mat 12 Jan 2.30pm, Sun 13 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**  
13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**  
0171 585 4542  
English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**  
Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &  
Mat 12 Jan 2.30pm, Sun 13 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**  
13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

## THEATRES

**ALDWYCH** 0171 582 6300 (24hr)

**ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**

Tues 7.30 **THE MIRACLO**

4000 for Box Office & Standby Info

Tickets available on the day

**THE MIRACLO**

0171 585 4542

English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**

Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &

Mon 12 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**

13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**

0171 585 4542

English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**

Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &

Mat 12 Jan 2.30pm, Sun 13 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**

13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**

0171 585 4542

English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**

Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &

Mat 12 Jan 2.30pm, Sun 13 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**

13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**

0171 585 4542

English National Ballet

**THE NUTCRACKER**

Unit 11 Jan 97 7.30pm &

Mat 12 Jan 2.30pm, Sun 13 Jan 2.30pm

**COPPÈRI**

13-16 Jan 7.30, Mat 18 Jan 2.30

To advertise in  
ENTERTAINMENTS  
Tel 0171 481 9313

**ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL:**

0171 585 4542

English National Ballet

</div

## Matthew Parris



**I've made my new year's resolution: I'm going to start planning for isthmus day**

**M**y map of Kerguelen has arrived, and I am more delighted than I can say. Measuring six by five and composed of three separate charts integrated into one, it has been assembled by my brother Roger. The charts, ordered from a geographical institute in Paris, took months to come. Roger has mounted them with care and precision on a wooden backing, faced with 60mm glass and framed in oak — so the thing weighs more than a man. On the wall of my flat in London the weight is taken by a horizontal baton screwed into the brick. This map, every detail, transfixes me. I go up close to study an isthmus, a marsh or a snowfield, then stand back and stare in blank wonder at the whole island. I am under its spell.

I always have been. Did you ever, as a child, pore over those great world atlases, in Mercator's projection, with Baffin Island very big and all the British bits in red? I spent a boyhood doing so. What fascinated me were places that looked remote.

Chief among these was

**Modern  
Ferdinands  
and  
Isabellas,  
please get  
in touch.  
I await  
your call**

an archipelago of islands which (my *Britannica* said) were the land most remote from any continent in the world. The archipelago lies in the south Indian Ocean, more than 2,000 miles east-south-east of the Cape of Good Hope, and even further west-south-west of Western Australia. More than 1,000 miles north of Antarctica, Kerguelen is more than 4,000 miles south of India. Situated at 49° deg South (England is about the same latitude in the north) the archipelago belongs to France. It is the main island that is called Kerguelen, or Desolation Island. What intrigued me as a child was how big Kerguelen is. Some 90 miles from tip to tip, a 2,800 square mile spidery tangle of fords and peninsulas. It seemed mysterious that a substantial island at an apparently temperate latitude was never mentioned in geography lessons. No teacher could tell me about it. Few even recognised the name. So the place took on a tremendous allure: a secret island that I could almost discover. At its other name, "Desolation", my eyes widened. The idea grew — fanciful of course — that someone was trying to hide the existence of this place. I felt drawn there.

Childish researches established that Kerguelen was first sighted in 1772 by Joseph de Kerguelen Tremarec, a Breton noble. Captain Cook visited in the *Challenger* four years later and explored. Later came sealing and whaling stations, now abandoned, along with ships' cats, which have reportedly gone feral and tiptoe through the snow, stalking birds. A group of French scientists apparently

inhabits the main settlement Port au France. But I cannot establish that any human being has ever been born on Kerguelen. The climate is not, it turns out, temperate. The winters are bitter, the summers cool. The islands are the windiest place in the world. The gale almost never abates, buffeting Kerguelen in perpetual violent squalls. Of trees, only fossils remain; the native Kerguelen cabbage has been ravaged by rabbits (introduced); the islands are so windy that insects have evolved to pollinate by wind.

Mountains rise to some 6,000 ft. And (speculates an encyclopaedia) there may be hot springs and volcanoes. The archipelago is cut by fantastic fjords. The scenery is generally magnificent . . . glaciers descend east and west to the sea. The whole island abounds in freshwater lakes and pools. Hidden deep mudholes are common."

I doubt whether there is any way of reaching Kerguelen by air. It seems one or two ships anchor there, but never stay. So one might have to go for six months or more.

I long to. But first I must find out more. Joseph Kerguelen himself described the island, and Captain Cook has an account, which I have yet to find, in his narrative of the *Challenger* voyage. Another account was written in 1893, in French, and a friend in France has sent me a modern French journal which I am struggling to read. Somewhat introspective, with imaginative interludes much in the French manner, it nevertheless seems likely to provide useful information.

Everyone should make a new year's resolution. Mine is to start making serious plans to reach Kerguelen. One way would be to get together a properly funded expedition, which would have to be photographic. I cannot see anyone being so interested in printing or screening an account of the islands, however, as to stump up the money. An alternative would be to hang around in Mauritius for a year or so until someone else was setting sail there. Time-consuming.

I am also worried about frostbite. Even in Derbyshire I suffer dreadfully from frozen fingers, feet and ears; what will it be like in a 200 mph west wind? Such speculations fill my mind.

A letter last week on the page opposite was good enough to remind the Editor that columnists such as me pay for holidays by writing about them. Correspondent, I spit in your eye. Sneak. Modern-day Ferdinands and Isabellas, do get in touch. I await your call. Standing where I shall often stand again this year, staring at my wonderful map of Kerguelen.

**T**ony Blair will himself be one of the main issues of the general election, and rightly so. The Conservatives will be attacked for negative campaigning, and no doubt some of their criticisms will be personal and unfair. But the Blair issue is unavoidable. The election will decide whether "new Labour" is to be the next government of the country: new Labour is Tony Blair's creation. One can no more criticise new Labour without criticising Tony Blair than one can criticise Virgin Airways without criticising Richard Branson.

There have been eight Labour leaders since the war, all of whom served for a time as Leader of the Opposition. With the exception of Harold Wilson, their record in opposition was depressing. Wilson is the only Labour leader since 1950 to have won a general election. He won two elections as Leader of the Opposition, in 1964 and 1974. Yet he held the firm belief that the old Labour orthodoxy, however absurd, should be evaded rather than challenged. He left a Labour Party even more divided than he found it.

No Leader of the Opposition can be judged in history until he has fought an election, and Tony Blair has not yet won his. Nevertheless, he has done something that none of his seven predecessors achieved, and only Hugh Gaitskell even attempted. He has changed Labour from being a democratic socialist party to being a social democratic party. He has done that without splitting his party, though old Labour deeply resents the change, and he has established a personal control that none of his predecessors enjoyed. If he wins the election, even narrowly, that will confirm the judgment that Tony Blair is the strongest leader the Labour Party has had in opposition since the war.

The question in people's minds is

The Labour leader has been frank with his party, but is still evasive with the electorate

# Blair is remarkable, but not invincible

**William  
Rees-Mogg**

One listens to Labour spokesmen, one hears the implicit message that the Government has been spending too little on health, education and welfare, and that Labour would spend more. In formal terms, Labour is quite skilful at avoiding specific commitments while arousing expectations of higher expenditure. At the same time, Labour appears to be promising not to raise taxes. These contradictory commitments may be technically reconciled in the small print, but they are still contradictory, and politicians should not behave like dubious hire-purchase com-

panies, relying on let-out clauses the customer has not read.

Neither party has yet said whether it will recommend joining the European single currency in the next Parliament if elected, though both have promised a referendum if they decide to do so. This makes democracy a farce. The Government's excuse is that its negotiating position would be destroyed if it stated now that it did not intend to join during the next Parliament. That is quite untrue. The 14 other European countries all assume that Britain under a Conservative government would not join in the first round; that is fully discussed in the negotiations already. Labour's excuse is even feebler: it says that when the time comes, it will decide on the balance of economic advantage. The decision is now so close that the facts and arguments are already clear. The truth is that neither party is prepared to tell the electorate what its intentions are.

**S**o Tony Blair's election position does have two large holes in it. The Labour Party is drawn up in battle array, rather like a jaunty Austrian army facing Napoleon. There are gaps in the chain of the line, which Napoleon's masses and artillery would have blasted and the French cavalry would have poured through. Yet so far the Conservatives have not shown the Napoleonic spirit. There is a gaping hole in the single currency unless they first say what they would do themselves.

Tory line as well, and a confused scurrying of staff officers in the fog. The Cabinet cannot make up its mind about Europe, and therefore cannot exploit Labour's weakness on the European issue.

If the Conservatives do not press home their attack, Labour is going to win. Tony Blair's success in building a coalition of progressive opinion is almost breathtaking. He has even turned the constitutional issues which overexcite the intellectuals of Primrose Hill into an agency for mass recruitment. The Liberal Democrats have been lured into constitutional talks which make Tony Blair appear a better Liberal Democrat than Paddy Ashdown. He will not need a Lib-Lab pact if he manages to steal enough Liberal votes in the general election itself. He has not been foolish enough to concede proportional representation, which would have led him to the Liberal Democrats forever.

Tony Blair's strategy is a ruthless one. He has imposed tough discipline on his own party; if he wins the election, as prime minister he will have patronage with which to reinforce it. He has killed socialism and replaced it with social democracy, which has covered his most vulnerable areas with a screen of calculated ambiguity. He has lured many left-wing Democrats and centrist Conservatives into his camp. He has fulfilled his strategy almost on his own, no one else could have done it.

Yet the strategy is vulnerable. In the beginning, Tony Blair's risk was that he would not be able to carry old Labour with him. But old Labour is yesterday's threat. Now the risk is that his two big ambiguities, expenditure and Europe, will be attacked successfully by the Tories. Fortunately for him, the Tories cannot make him say what he would do about the single currency unless they first say what they would do themselves.

# Whose party will it be?

**Chris Patten's  
next move will  
say a lot about  
the Tories, says  
Peter Riddell**

**C**hris Patten is one of those rare politicians who continues to intrigue the political world even when he is several thousand miles away. When MPs and fellow journalists learnt that I would be spending a few days in Hong Kong before Christmas, en route to a family holiday in Australia, they said: "You must find out what Chris is really intending to do when he comes back."

To both friends and enemies, Mr Patten is the Prince over the Water. His repeated protestations of being unsure whether he wants to return to the Commons are never taken at face value. His friends hope that he can be persuaded to stand at an early bye-election in the next Parliament. His enemies fear a plot, involving John Major, to get Mr Patten back so he can obstruct their desire to push the party rightwards.

But like most conspiracy theories, this talk is mainly froth without substance. There was never any chance of Mr Patten resigning the governorship to stand at the general election. Now, he means what he says about waiting and seeing. He has plenty to do in the final six months of British rule, not least persuading the Government to fulfil its moral obligations by extending British citizenship to the few thousand in the non-Chinese ethnic minority. This was opposed by the Home Office, though it is supported by Labour. After June 30, Mr Patten intends to take a long holiday, write a book about the lessons of Asian economic success, and find a new London home. So don't expect him to be addressing fringe meetings at the Conservative Party conference.

Few politicians have had a successful second career in the Commons. Lord Curzon a century ago, and Lord Halifax (as he became) in the 1920s as Viceroy of India, did not return to the Commons, but Roy Jenkins was one of the few to do so after being President of the European Commission in the late 1970s. As David Gilmour describes in his superb biography, Curzon had a wretched time on his return from India, often falling into despair, and describing his life as a failure and a mockery. Even Halifax waited more than a year after leaving India — admittedly at his own choice — before taking a junior Cabinet post.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is the only one to have returned to the Commons. And his high point was winning the Hillhead by-election in March 1982. He did not enjoy his

subsequent five years in the Commons, obtaining more satisfaction from his Glasgow constituency.

Lord Curzon, however, was the only one of the seven former-MP British EU Commissioners (excluding the current two) to go back to the Commons. All but one of the others went to the Lords, Iain Richmond being the Labour leader there.

But Lord Jenkins returned to the Commons in the special circumstances of the launch of the SDP. He probably could not have become, and would not have wanted to become, a Labour MP again. His experience also shows the problems. Generations move on, and the Commons changes. The Conservative Party after the next election will be very different from the Conservative

Party Mr Patten knew five years ago.

Moreover, as Mr Patten has said, the Commons is not something to be considered casually, like dropping back into a club. It requires an unequivocal commitment, as well as luck, since constituency parties now are not easily impressed by grand figures. The idea of a seat being reserved for Mr Patten is odd, though a few senior MPs with an eye on the Lords have suggested as much. While the possibility of creating a vacancy in a seat like Chelsea was mooted after his defeat at Bath in 1992, it was quickly rejected by Mr Patten. The rumours before Sir Nicholas Scott's deselection that he was keeping the new Kensington and Chelsea seat warm for Mr Patten were nonsense.

The other option, also mooted for Mr Patten in 1992, is a place in the Lords. But few peers have real influence. The days when a Curzon, Haining, Stone or Carrington could be brought back from the Lords are over. Occasionally a peer can have clout as a behind-the-scenes figure, as Lord Whitelaw did in the mid-1980s, but attempts to find a new "Willie" have failed. Mr Patten, who will be 53 on his return, is young for such a role.

**A** If this goes to show how narrow is the career structure of British politics. You either fit in, committed to climbing the ladder of promotion, or out. This results in a loss of people of talent and experience. Mr Patten would probably, now, be a better minister than before he lost his seat. He reckons that he would use his time better and be a better delegator. Moreover, whatever the arguments about his handling of China in 1992-93, Mr Patten has been right to seek to enshrine democratic rights in Hong Kong. The alternative was not a quiet handover, but the absurdity of Britain opposing protests by democratic activists.

Mr Patten still has much to contribute to public life. He retains an enthusiasm for political controversy. His views have changed over the past five years. He now stresses the need to limit the size of the State. This does not mean draconian cuts to aim at Asian levels of public spending (20 per cent or less of national income), but it does involve shifting the balance between public and private provision.

What is distinctive, and appealing, about Mr Patten is not so much his ministerial record — three middle-level posts before a naked 18 months as Environment Secretary — but his approach to politics. He stands out because of his decency and humanity, because he is not an obsessive Westminster speculator has missed the point. The question is not whether Mr Patten wants to become Tory leader — which would be highly unlikely, as he accepts — but rather whether he sees the post-election Conservative Party as a congenial place to serve. Much will depend on who is the leader. Mr Patten's decision will say much about the future of the Tories.

## Out of range



The Duke out shooting

LESS than a month after the Duke of Edinburgh appalled victims of the Dunblane tragedy by suggesting that members of gun clubs were no more dangerous than cricketers, his award scheme is to consider dropping marksmanship as one of its activities.

A stinging panel of the Duke of Edinburgh Award will meet in February to discuss whether rifle-range shooting should remain as one of the 300 or so skills that participants can learn as part of the scheme.

"Marksmanship is on the meeting's agenda," said a representative yesterday. "They will be discussing whether it is still relevant, but I am not going to pre-empt the outcome."

Shooting with air pistols, air rifles and proper .22 rifles has been offered since the award was set up 40 years ago to promote enterprise among teenagers of an outdoor, Gordonstoun-inspired, cold-morning-bath variety. The Army Cadet Force was one of the first organisations to become involved, and marksmanship arrived with it. "Very few people do marksmanship with the award

now," said the representative. Prince Philip will not be at the meeting, and he is still wary of any moves to curb shooting. Even so, public reaction forced him into an unprecedented apology before Christmas for his suggestion that the sort of chap who uses a gun for sport isn't very different from the one who swings a golf club, tennis racket or cricket bat.

• The great minds of Cambridge University expect nothing but the best, but even they were surprised at the quality of the local pantomime cast this year. The comedian Barry Cryer, starring as the Dame

now, is the representative. Prince Philip will not be at the meeting, and he is still wary of any moves to curb shooting. Even so, public reaction forced him into an unprecedented apology before Christmas for his suggestion that the sort of chap who uses a gun for sport isn't very different from the one who swings a golf club, tennis racket or cricket bat.

in Dick Whittington at the Arts Theatre, is described in the programme as having received an award from the Royal Society, the world's senior scientific body. Perhaps they meant the Royal Television Society.

FOOTBALL FOLK are emotional types, as Graham Taylor, the former England manager, eloquently demonstrated in a documentary during which he used the f-word 40 times, a new record for television.

Malcolm Allison, who once managed Middlesbrough, has now been sacked by a radio station from his job as a football commentator because of his forceful language.

Century Radio, based in the North East, had warned him, and held

up the red card after he advised a player while commenting on a Coventry v Middlesbrough match after Christmas to "get the f—ball".

The station's general manager, John Myers, is upset: "There is no way back for him now," he said. "It's very sad because he is such a nice bloke. We sacked him a year ago for using the f-word, but due to public demand, we asked him to come back — with the proviso that he would watch his language."

### Chapeau chap

AS Jacques Chirac struggles with a host of economic and social woes

France is indulging in a bout of dewy-eyed nostalgia for the man he replaced. "What all this Mitterrand idolatry?" asks the conservative newspaper *Le Figaro* as the first anniversary of his death on January 8 approaches. "Certainly not because of his record, which comprises a lowering of France in all respects."

The corruption scandals of his tenure, the unemployment statistics and the recession are ignored in the present mélée of Mitterrand mania: pride of place in the museum of headwear near Lyons has just been given over to a broad-brimmed hat, customised with the initials F.M.

### True story

BACK in the autumn, tragedy struck at the Royal Opera House. Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu, the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers of the operatic stage, quite unexpectedly refused to perform Rodolfo and Mimì in *La Bohème*. They had been booked long in advance tickets had been sold for up to £130 each; and the Opera House was left high and dry, offering up limp excuses about exhaustion on their behalf.

In next month's *Classic FM* magazine, Alagna finally explains why

he and his wife pulled out: Angela's sister was killed in a crash, leaving behind her six-year-old daughter, Ioana, whom the couple have since adopted.

"At the time we cancelled *La Bohème* in London and everybody said: 'It is a scandal, I have my ticket.' But we stuck by our sister, that is all. The matter is closed."

P.H.S



Hats off, a year on



## HIDDEN AGENDA

Labour should treat the constitution with caution

It may be the historic task of the Liberals, John Maynard Keynes once argued, to give ideas to the Labour Party and then to the Conservatives. Some time has passed since the second role was discharged. The revelation that a Labour-Liberal committee has drafted an agreed approach to constitutional reform suggests the first function is alive and well.

If reports are accurate, consensus has already been reached on the introduction of a Bill of Rights and Freedom of Information Act as well as reform of the House of Lords. A Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, significant regional government, are still being discussed, as is the switch of the electoral system towards a type more conducive to the centre party. Tony Blair is unlikely to embrace proportional representation before the general election. However, he will wait until he sees the size of his majority before ruling it out either.

Many, particularly on the left of the Labour Party, have expressed anger that so few among their ranks were aware of this confounding co-operation, and fury that leading Liberal Democrats appear to wield more influence than several members of the Shadow Cabinet. This concern should really be directed at the substance of these discussions, not the symbolism. For the future fate of a Blair government may rest upon their outcome.

If Labour held only to the shoddiness of measures it presently seems minded to offer the Liberal Democrats, then it would probably come to little harm. A Bill of Rights, Freedom of Information Act and parliamentary reform would represent a substantial but manageable package, broadly compatible with the principles of the present constitution. Voter antagonism would be improbable. The Conservatives might be outmanoeuvred; Whithall secrecy and hereditary peerage do not look promising.

## NEWT ON THE RACK

The Speaker should still retain the confidence of Republicans

These have been difficult weeks for Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives. Although personally unpopular with the American electorate, his strategy and leadership had proved strong enough to see the re-election of his Republican compatriots in November. That victory, the first of its kind in almost seven decades, seemed enough to silence criticism.

That was before the House Ethics Committee decided that Gopac, the political organisation he once headed, had violated the law in soliciting tax-deductible contributions to fund a college course of lectures that Mr. Gingrich had given. As often, the original misdemeanour was compounded by subsequent attempts to minimise its importance. The Speaker has conceded that he provided "inaccurate, incomplete, and unreliable information" to his colleagues.

Of itself this should not cause Mr. Gingrich's downfall. The ultimate verdict from the committee is unlikely to be stronger than a reprimand. Unless further revelations emerge, then the Speaker will be re-elected when Congress reassembles in Washington tomorrow. Despite that, many Republicans are openly nervous. They would be grateful if their standard-bearer chose voluntary retirement.

The Republican case against their leader is threefold. Many believe that his recent difficulties will make it impossible for him to recapture public support and the party cannot be saddled with an electoral liability. In addition, more cynically, House Republicans need him rather less than two years ago. Then they unexpectedly won power after 40 years in the wilderness. Their tenure could have proved an embarrassing fiasco were it not for the direction he offered.

## FLEETING FAME AT THE BAR

Nelson Mandela is no longer an icon for today's students

When Nelson Mandela was a prisoner on Robben Island, a persecuted symbol of apartheid's evil, his name and fame were adopted by student unions across the country. Bars, buildings and halls of residence were named after the African National Congress leader; his image was an icon for crusaders in the anti-imperialist struggle, the more potent for being locked away from public view. Yet from the moment of his liberation, the mystery began to fade. Mr. Mandela became a familiar face on television, no longer a suffering martyr but a mortal politician based in the daily compromises of politics.

A new, more worldly generation of students has turned its attention to heroes nearer home: to the icons of screen and stage, to sporting personalities and to the showbiz plutocrats able to bestow not only their name on a bar but perhaps also some new stools and a karaoke machine. Nelson Mandela was just another elderly African leader; Freddie Mercury, on the other hand, was dead, misunderstood and a victim of AIDS who could be adopted for today's fashionable causes. The Mandela bar quietly became the Freddie Mercury bar. Of the 30 or more Mandela bars once found in British universities, others opted for Oasis, Des Lynam, the BBC presenter, or even Bruce Forsyth – though student players in that generation have since reverted to a more revered saint in the Martin Luther King bar.

ing terrain to defend. The legislative cost would be limited. Mr Blair could claim to have made some long overdue modernisation to the institutions of British government while preserving the time to do much more besides.

That would not be the case if Labour swallowed whole the plans pressed upon it by such groups as Charter 88 and their Liberal allies. This might seem attractive to some new Labour supporters as a programme that combined genuine radicalism with minimal expenditure. Yet even if Mr Blair abandoned the longstanding convention that constitutional measures should be debated, line-by-line, on the floor of the Commons, not in committee, little parliamentary space would be available for anything else. The proposals themselves would be extremely controversial and prompt internal division. They would also represent an opportunity for the Conservative opposition to reunite. Yet, outside Scotland – and even here – politics is about more than devolution. There is little evidence that constitutional reform stands among the reasons why the electorate might choose a Labour government.

In short, Paddy Ashdown and his followers would win by far the better part of such a bargain. One does not need to be a member of the Tribune Group to note an irony in the first Labour government for 18 years implementing policies that the Liberal Party has failed in the last 80 years to persuade the public to accept. Advocates of radical action assert that fundamental constitutional change is the "necessary precondition" before more ambitious innovations can be undertaken in a second administration. No Labour government has yet served a full term and been re-elected for another five years. If Mr. Blair allows the next Parliament to be shaped by the Liberal Democrat agenda, that record will not change.

How would abortion rank in comparison with some of the other "moral" questions of our day, such as broadcasting and the media, crime and punishment, medical research and vivisection and the National Lottery? And how would the Cardinal advise people to vote if the only anti-abortion candidate in their constituency was against further gun controls and in favour of hanging?

As for the Pro-Life Alliance, I look forward to reading its party manifesto. With no robust political philosophy underpinning the grouping, if policies are presented on issues other than abortion, it will be of considerable interest to know the method by which they have been developed and how committed to them are its candidates – although in this particular regard they may be no worse than either of the Labour or Conservative parties.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY M. SEEFF  
(Liberal Democrat prospective parliamentary candidate, Chingford and Woodford Green), 32 Churchfields, South Woodford, E18.  
January 2.

## Investigations of MPs

From the Editor of The Guardian

Sir, I am mystified by Sir Gordon Downey's letter (January 3) which may have given the impression that *The Guardian* has been mainly responsible for a delay in him examining the allegations against Neil Hamilton and other MPs. This is wrong.

This is not an inconsequential argument. If Mr. Gingrich encounters any further ethical difficulties even his most ardent supporters might need to reassess their position. Before that, though, House Republicans need to consider the consequences of losing him. In large part this affair has acquired its prominence through Democratic pressure, partly as revenge for the fall of Speaker Jim Wright in 1989, but largely out of hostility and fear of the agenda embodied by Mr. Gingrich. That campaign would probably intensify, not disappear, if the present Speaker were sacrificed.

It is difficult to detect why House Democrats want to be rid of their nemesis. Mr. Gingrich is not irreplaceable but any successor is unlikely to bring the same combination of intellectual vision, political planning and the ability to broker compromise between Republican factions. The party would be less effective as a result of his departure. The Speaker would be well advised to proceed with great caution in the months ahead. But he requires continued Republican support as much for what he can deliver in the future as for his undoubted successes in the recent past.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN RUSBRIDGER,  
Editor, *The Guardian*, 119 Farringdon Road, EC1.  
January 3.

## Honours due

From Mr Charles J. Swallow

Sir, The Government claims to be concerned about education. A cursory look at the New Year's Honours list (reports and leading article, December 31) suggests that their priorities are otherwise.

The award of an MBE to the elderly (and no doubt thoroughly deserving) "lollipop" man may help to achieve the Prime Minister's stated intention to create a classless society. Yet one gets in vain, year after year, for the singling out for honours of virtually any of the heads or teachers throughout the land, many of whom have given a lifetime of dedicated service to the young.

Teachers, like children, need encouragement. An award costs the Government nothing.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES SWALLOW  
(Retired headmaster),  
Manor Barn House,  
Wendlebury, Bicester, Oxfordshire.  
January 3.

## Royal Parks cuts

From Mr G. F. C. Plowden

Sir, Heaven forbid that the Royal Parks should get more money (letter, December 28) if they are going to spend it on such fancy vulgarities as the coloured lights let into the ground in St James's Park, or the flowering shrubs planted last year to spoil the beauty of the vistas among the trees in Kensington Gardens. Such attempts at pre-meditation do more damage than neglect or decay.

Yours faithfully,  
G. F. C. PLOWDEN,  
As from:  
22 Prince Edward Mansions, W2.  
December 28.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Bringing abortion into party politics

From Dr Geoffrey M. Seeff

Sir, I am not one of those who believe that the Church, in this case the Roman Catholic Church, should desist from comment on or direct involvement in politics. Access to abortion has wide-ranging economic, social and moral implications and Cardinal Hume is perfectly within his rights to advise the followers of his faith not to vote for parliamentary candidates who support the principles enshrined in the present laws on the matter (reports, December 28 and January 1).

Similarly, the Pro-Life Alliance is entitled put up candidates to fight the general election on this platform.

However, having entered the political fray, the Cardinal cannot be allowed to sway from telling us where he stands on the secular aspects of the nation's governance. I assume that he is not so naive as to suggest to Catholic voters that the "evil" of abortion overrides every other aspect of their lives, so he should now make clear the relative importance of the issue.

How would abortion rank in comparison with some of the other "moral" questions of our day, such as broadcasting and the media, crime and punishment, medical research and vivisection and the National Lottery? And how would the Cardinal advise people to vote if the only anti-abortion candidate in their constituency was against further gun controls and in favour of hanging?

Second, is it not mean-spirited as well as inaccurate to describe the planned Acropolis Museum as "a speculative gamble" and potentially as "architectural blackmail"? The need for a new and larger Acropolis Museum was recognised 20 years ago, at the same time as the Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments was set up by the then Greek Minister of Culture, Professor Constantine Tripiatis. The contract for the new museum has now been signed, and preparatory work has already begun.

Thirdly, the war of words over the location of the marbles has hardly been static during the last 15 years. Let us recall, *inter alia*, the publication in 1987 of Christopher Hitchens's *The Elgin Marbles Should They Be Returned?*; the 1988 debate in the Oxford Union, which voted overwhelmingly that the marbles should be sent back to Greece; the telephone poll in April last year, following a Channel 4 film on the subject, in which out of 100,000 callers 92,500 supported the return; and last but not least a *Times* leader

### 'War of words' over Elgin Marbles

From Professor Robert Browning, Chairman, British Committee for the Restoration of the Parthenon Marbles

Sir, Some of the points made in your leading article of December 21, "No Elgin, no marbles", call for clarification (letters, December 28).

First, I do not understand what is meant by saying that by being brought to London, the marbles have "become themselves". In the 18th century they aroused the ecstatic admiration of Cyriacus of Ancona, the founding father of classical archaeology.

In 1674 the Marquis de Nointel, Louis XIV's Ambassador to Turkey, had his artist prepare minutely detailed drawings of all the sculptures. A century later, another French Ambassador, the Comte de Choiseul-Gouffier, suggested to the Polish Diet that a replica of the Parthenon sculptures and all, be built in Warsaw to celebrate the new Constitution of Poland. Lord Elgin (1766-1841) was not the first

to recognise their perfection.

Second, is it not mean-spirited as well as inaccurate to describe the planned Acropolis Museum as "a speculative gamble" and potentially as "architectural blackmail"? The need for a new and larger Acropolis Museum was recognised 20 years ago, at the same time as the Committee for the Preservation of the Acropolis Monuments was set up by the then Greek Minister of Culture, Professor Constantine Tripiatis. The contract for the new museum has now been signed, and preparatory work has already begun.

Thirdly, the war of words over the location of the marbles has hardly been static during the last 15 years. Let us recall, *inter alia*, the publication in 1987 of Christopher Hitchens's *The Elgin Marbles Should They Be Returned?*; the 1988 debate in the Oxford Union, which voted overwhelmingly that the marbles should be sent back to Greece; the telephone poll in April last year, following a Channel 4 film on the subject, in which out of 100,000 callers 92,500 supported the return; and last but not least a *Times* leader

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BROWNING, Chairman, British Committee for the Restoration of the Parthenon Marbles, 5 St Paul's Place, NJ.

on April 6, 1992, which ended with these words: "the marbles should be returned and the cobwebs of museum curators swept aside".

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT BROWNING, Chairman, British Committee for the Restoration of the Parthenon Marbles, 5 St Paul's Place, NJ.

January 2.

From Mrs S. R. Swan

Sir, I am sad and angry at the feeble letters supporting the return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece.

Why on earth should we send them back? These lovely and precious objects were legitimately acquired, meticulously cared for and splendidly housed in the British Museum for millions of people to enjoy.

Your leading article of December 21 was quite right. As a nation we should be proud of our marvellous museums and dismiss all suggestions of returning objects to their countries of origin. What a game of musical chairs would ensue if this were applied universally.

Yours faithfully,

SUSAN SWAN, 251 Kennington Road, SE11.

January 1.

From Mr Alec Tilley

Sir, There has been a good deal of support in your columns for the return of the Elgin Marbles, but it seems that one of the main stumbling blocks is the fear of setting a precedent. If the Elgin Marbles go home to Greece, what museum piece is safe?

Could they not be returned as a gesture to mark the new millennium? That would merely create a precedent for repatriating one national treasure every 1,000 years – a prospect that ought not to upset museum curators.

Yours faithfully,

ALEC TILLEY, Fieldfare, East Street, Hambleton, Waterlooville, Hampshire.

January 3.

### Tracing Greenwich Meridian line

From Miss Carole Stott

Sir, You report ("Lost time", Diary, December 3) that Greenwich has lost the Meridian line. This is not so.

It cuts England in two from the East Coast, just north of the Humber to Peasholm on the South Coast, east of Brighton, and is recognised and marked at numerous points along its track. Brass plaques, trees, a rose garden, an obelisk and painted lines mark its route.

As occupants of Louth, Boston, Waltham Abbey, East Grinstead and Lewes go about their daily business they regularly trip between the eastern and western hemispheres, not to mention those in the windmill, pub and golf club, and the schools, railway stations and farms that are bisected by the line.

Many of the marks, including some in the buildings and on the roads and pathways of Greenwich, were installed in 1984 when the Greenwich Meridian celebrated 100 years of international acceptance. I had the pleasure of motoring along the line that year, others walked or cycled parts of it, the Red Arrows paraded onto it and the Brownies polished it.

The Greenwich Meridian is far from lost. After all, it is impossible to lose something that is an imaginary line in the sky.

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLE STOTT (co-author, *The Greenwich Meridian*, Ordnance Survey, 1984; Department of Naval Navigation Sciences, Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich, 1977-89), 28 Musokava Avenue, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

January 2.

From Dr Kristen Lippincott

Sir, I would like to comment on a few points made in today's Diary. The Old Royal Observatory at Greenwich (part of the National Maritime Museum) did indeed receive a letter from the Blackheath Society requesting information on where the Prime Meridian bisects the Borough of Lewisham. Assuming that accuracy was a prime concern, we replied suggesting that the most cartographically reliable source for tracing Longitude 0° would be an Ordnance Survey map and directed the inquirer to that source. The notion that the Museum had "mis-laid" its own map showing the location of the Meridian line and "nobody knew" where the line went beyond the confines of our museum boundaries is absurd.

On a more general point, had the artist followed the Ordnance Survey mappers' advice and visited the Chipping Pillar on the edge of Epping Forest, he or she would have discovered that the current Prime Meridian – established during the International Meridian Conference of 1884 – is in fact marked by an obelisk 19ft to the east of the 1824 pillar marking Bradley's earlier meridian.

Should the artist wish to pursue the matter, the original records for the Royal Greenwich Observatory are kept at the Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, University Library, Cambridge. Yours sincerely,  
K. LIPPINCOTT (Director, The Millennium Project, The Old Royal Observatory, Greenwich, SE10). December 31.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL KANE, 30-32 37th Street, Astoria, New York 11103. January 2.

### Cold calculation

From Mrs Noel McLeod

Sir, Your general weather forecast for today predicts scattered light snow showers in eastern coastal parts but more "organised" sleet or snow in southernmost parts of England and Wales.

Organised by whom? And could the organiser be persuaded to organise something different?

Yours faithfully,  
NOEL MCLEOD, 48 Witney Court, Coram Street, WC1.

January 3.

### Fair play

From Mr Alan Richardson

Sir, Having sampled the weller of criticism of the England cricket team for



## COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK  
January 5: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Derby preached the Sermon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
January 5: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended a Concert given by the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Lally, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

### Scottish Episcopal Church

Glasgow and Galloway  
Sarah Helen Buchanan (Sally) Gorton has been ordained deacon and will be Hon Assistant Curate at St Cyprian's Church, Lamlie, St Andrews, Dunblane and Dunblane.

Diana Frances Louise Pertsch has been ordained deacon and will be Hon Assistant Curate, St John's, Perth. Appointment  
Glasgow and Galloway  
Shelly Ann Marsh, Hon Assistant Curate, Good Shepherd, Glasgow; Priest-in-Charge, St John's, Johnson, and St Margaret's, Renfrew.

### Nature notes

Wild geese are on the move all over Britain, looking for quiet fields of grass or springing corn where they can feed unhampered by snow. A few snow geese from Greenland have been seen with flocks of white-fronted geese. They are pure white birds, with black wing-tips, a red beak and pink feet. Flocks of blackbirds, redwings, fieldfares and skylarks have been heading for the West Country and Ireland in search of easier conditions. These are mainly ground feeders. In hard weather, many small birds that feed in trees and bushes stay in their territories as long as



The fieldfare

they can: their need to drink is as likely to drive them out as the shortage of accessible food, and owners of bird tables should put out water as well as nuts and fat. Under the shelter of garden trees the first snowdrops are showing their heads. Japanese cherry is in pink blossom in many places; it flowers twice, in winter and in spring. Some elder bushes are still in leaf. There are small, hard catkins on the hairy hazel twigs: by the middle of next month, many of them will already have become 'lambs' tails', dangling loose and yellow with pollen. DJM

### DEATHS

DINGEMANS - On 30th December, to Lis Goss (née Hawkins) and Simon, a daughter, Amy Elizabeth.

EVANS-LORRE - On December 30th, to Mrs. (née Speckman) and Nicholas, a son, Arthur Thomas, a son, Peter for Alzheimers.

HEDDERSON - On December 22nd at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Claire (née MacCandie) and David, a daughter, Natalie Alice.

HEWARD - On 1st January, to Annabel and Paul, a son, Peter and wife Clare, a daughter for Jeremy.

HUTCHINGS - Merlin and Carolyn, London, New Year's Day, a son, Mylo Arthur Merlin, a brother for Jeremy.

MORRISON - On Friday January 3rd 1997 in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, a son, Nicholas Joshua, a daughter, Alexandra Katherine.

MURRAY - On December 18th, to Colin (née Rab-Smith) and Christopher, a gift of a son, Nicholas Joshua, a brother for Tim.

REES - On December 21st, 1996 to Lucy (née Collins) and David, a son, Benjamin James Edward.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

GAZDAR/RODRIGUEZ - Roy and Moy, 50 years, 18th January, Trinity Church, Clapgate, Surrey, now at Durham City, DE1 4QX.

### DEATHS

BISSET - On 4th January 1997 at 8.30am, Eddie Kenneth Alexander Blisset D.Sc., Ph.D., B.Sc. Scholar, died peacefully at his home in 1915. Husband and father of Hazel and Anne. No service or flowers.

BURGESS - John C.R.E. M.Sc., M.I.C.E. on New Year's Day at home, adored husband of Eileen, loving and devoted father of Richard, Lesley, Scott, Helen and Andrew. A guiding light to all his family. Northern Rugby and an inspiration to us all. Service to be held at St. Philip's Church, Alderley Edge on Thursday 9th January at 1 pm. Interment at Alderley Edge Cemetery. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Family flowers only please. Donations to the R.F.U. Charitable Fund (S.J.L.R.E. Appeal). All further enquiries and information to Hazel and Son, Chorlton Road, Warford, Alderley Edge, Cheshire SK9 7TT, tel (01625) 584199.

CAMPION - On December 31st, peacefully at home, Florence (Sally to everyone), aged 93 years. Dearly beloved wife of Charlie for 62 years, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at 3 pm on Thursday January 9th at St Andrew's Church, Old Master, Oxford. Guests are welcome only please, but donations in her memory, for St Barnabas Hospice, 100 Highgate Hill, Teddington, TW11 2GD. Gorringe, Worthing. Tel: (01428) 269713.

FOTCHER - See Sykes.

### Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: King Richard II, reigned 1377-99, Bordeaux, 1307; St Joan of Arc, Domremy, France, 1412; John Smith, colonised Virginia, 1580; Jacques Etienne Montgolfier, balloonist, Amiens, France, 1745; Gustave Doré, artist and book illustrator, Strasbourg, 1832; Max Bruch, composer, Cologne, 1838; Carl Sandburg, poet, Gaithersburg, Illinois, 1878; Tom Mix, film actor, El Paso, Texas, 1881.

DEATHS: Baldassare Peruzzi, architect, Rome, 1536; Fanny Burney, novelist and diarist, London, 1840; Hartley Coleridge, writer, Grasmere, Cumbria, 1849; Louis Braille, inventor of the reading system for the blind, Paris, 1852; Richard Henry Dana, writer, Rome, 1855; Gregor Mendel, geneticist, Brno, Czechoslovakia, 1866; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th American President, 1901-09, Oyster Bay, New York, 1919; Victor Fleming, film director, Phoenix, Arizona, 1949; A.J. Cronin, novelist, 1981.

Harold II was crowned King of England in succession to Edward the Confessor, 1066.

Samuel Morse gave the first public demonstration of his electric telegraphic system, 1838.

The new Sadler's Wells Theatre opened, London, 1931.

### Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor entertained children connected with City institutions, City Livery Companies, HM Forces and London boroughs at a fancy dress party held on Saturday at the Mansion House.

### Forgotten war art goes on view

By ALAN HAMILTON

GRUESOME scenes of life in the trenches of the First World War, painted in secret by a serving soldier and smuggled home to his mother, have gone on show in Leeds for the first time in 60 years.

Stanley Wilson served with the 10th Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) on the front line in Italy. Hidden in his kitbag were a roll of paper, tubes of watercolours, a pen, a bottle of waterproof ink and a single brush. After a day's battle he would retire to a quiet corner of his trench and record scenes still fresh in his mind.

As the officer responsible for censoring his men's letters home, Wilson was able to pass his own mail and, by rolling his paintings inside old newspapers, post them to his mother in Yorkshire. Now his covert art is seeing the light of day again on the walls of Leeds City Art Gallery.

His collection lay undiscovered for many years until Wilson, visiting his seriously



One of Stanley Wilson's First World War paintings, now being exhibited for the first time in 60 years

ill mother in the 1930s, learnt that his work was still in her attic. The paintings were exhibited in London before being bought by the City of

Leeds, in whose vaults they lay forgotten until recently, when they were found by art gallery staff carrying out a stocktaking.

### School news

#### The Arts Educational School

TRING PARK  
The Spring Term begins today at The Arts Educational School, Tring Park. The Drama Show is from March 12-14 and the Dance Show is on March 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 26. Term ends on Thursday, March 27.

#### Chetham's School of Music

Term starts today at Chetham's School of Music. Lower School pupils will give a concert at the Royal Northern College of Music on February 12, and the following evening Chetham's Symphony Orchestra will perform at the same venue. The Middle School Orchestra will give concerts in Ulverston on March 14 and Harpenden on March 15. Term ends with the Founder's Day service in Manchester Cathedral on March 22. The 1997 Hallé Prom Concert will be held in the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, on Sunday, March 9, in the School Chapel. The Oakham School Choral Society and Orchestra will perform Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*.

Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe

The Spring Term begins today at

#### Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Oakham School

Spring Term at Oakham School begins today. Music and Art & Design Scholarship Examinations for 11- and 13+ entry will be held on February 3 and 4. Academic Scholarship Examinations for 13+ entry will be held on February 10, 11 and 12. The Jervwood Players will perform *Twelfth Night* on February 24, 25 and 26. The Oakham School Symphony Orchestra's Spring Concert is on February 27 and will include Dvorák's 9th Symphony, *From the New World*. The Oakham Prep School Seven-a-side Tournament takes place on March 2. On Sunday, March 9, in the School Chapel, the Oakham School Choral Society and Orchestra will perform Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*.

Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe

The Spring Term begins today at

#### Pipers Corner, Shobdon

The school term starts today. Heads of School are Frederick Schofield and Amy Dixon.

The Spring Term begins today at

#### Regent's Park College

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### WYOMING COLLEGE, NORFOLK

Term begins today with Veena Joory as Head Girl and Andrew McDonald as Head Boy. BBC Question Time will be broadcast from the College on January 30, the production of *Pirates of Penzance* will be performed on March 14 and 15. Work will begin on the new Science and Art buildings this term and the opening of the Mitsubishi Apricot Computer Suite will be on March 7. On February 1 the Sixth Form Boarding Scholarship Assessments will take place. College Open Days this term will be held on February 1 and March 15.

The Spring Term begins today at

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

#### Wycombe Abbey School

Entrance examinations for September 1997 for the Senior School take place on January 31 and assessments for the Junior School on February 1. Full details from the registrar 081 932 5003.

### Birthdays today

Major K.G. Adams, 77; Mr Malcolm Appleby, engraver, 51; Mr Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, 42; Mr Paul Azinger, boxer; 37; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, 70; Mr Roger Barlow, MEP, 52; Mr A.J. Bowtell, chief executive, Berrisford International, 46; Sir Ashley Bramall, former chairman, GICL, 81; Sir Robert Clark, former deputy chairman, TSB Group, 73; Mr John Croft, criminologist and oil painter, 74; Mr Angus Deayton, writer and broadcaster, 41; Mr Karl Dev, cricketer, 38; General Sir Martin Farndale, 68; Sir Hugh Flatt, water scientist, 74; Mr Ronald Goldstein, joint founder, Superdrugs, 60; Mr Barry John, rugby player, 52; Mr P.J. Kavanagh, writer, 66; Mr Christopher Lewinson, chairman, TI Group, 65; Miss Nancy Lopez, golfer, 42; Lord McCall of Dulwich, 64; Sir Hamish Macleod, former Financial Secretary, Hong Kong, 75; Sir Brian Moffat, chairman, British Steel, 58; Vice-Admiral Sir Michael Moore, 55; Mr Richard Newbury, athlete, 33; Mr Martin O'Neill, MP, 52; Lord Plowden, 90; Mr Bill Sims, trade unionist, 77; Mr J.A. Soden, 54; Mr John Sommerville, former chairman, Costain Group, 80; Mr Tony Stretton-O'Connell, 54; Mr Alan Titchmarsh, 42; Mr Michael Wainwright, 61; Mr John Whittle, 61; Mr Alan Young, 61.

Mr A.J. Bennett

and Miss P.A. Smith

The engagement is announced between Alan Grant, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Mary Shearer and the late Mr James Shearer, of Oxtot, Surrey, and Moira Eleanor, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Smith, of Kent.

Mr I.G. Shearer

and Miss M.E. Davell

The engagement is announced between Ian Grant, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Mary Shearer and the late Mr James Shearer, of Oxtot, Surrey, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wooley-Stafford, of Little Kingstall, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.D.H. Watson

and Miss I.A. Field



## NEWS

**Tory campaign hit by gay sex claim**

■ Allegations of an illegal relationship with a homosexual teenager yesterday put the future of a Conservative MP in doubt and marred John Major's launch of an election campaign that could last up to four months.

After Mr Major unleashed a ferocious attack on the opposition parties' plans for constitutional change, senior Conservatives were last night urging Jerry Hayes, the MP for Harlow, to go quickly and quietly ..... Page 1, 3

**Sinn Fein leaders appear in IRA video**

■ A new IRA propaganda video which is designed to bolster support for the campaign of violence features footage of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness. The two Sinn Fein leaders appear sandwiched between lengthy shots of masked men firing automatic rifles and mortar bombs ..... Page 1

**Fall from grace**

Two-thirds of student unions have dropped Nelson Mandela's name from their bars or buildings in favour of more fashionable heroes including Des Lynam, Freddie Mercury and Oasis ..... Page 1

**Ashdown demand**

Paddy Ashdown has demanded that Tony Blair commit himself to wide-ranging changes to the voting system ..... Page 2

**Fault in reality**

The "real people" in the Tories' new poster campaign are not "real" at all, but are actors who have been forced by the party to sign a written undertaking not to reveal their identity ..... Page 2

**Freeze to continue**

The bitterly cold weather has claimed four more lives as forecasters predicted that the freezing conditions would continue for another week ..... Page 3

**'Toxic' sweets**

Small, white, pill-shaped sweets made by Nestlé Rowntree have been added to a toxicology database for police and hospitals because they are being mistaken for drugs ..... Page 3

**Student loan scheme**

A group of universities is preparing its own student loan schemes to tempt scholars away from rivals and curb the rising drop-out rate ..... Page 4

**Madonna's child faces television ban**

■ Madonna, star of *Evita*, erstwhile siren of music videos and provocateur of the Catholic Church, plans to stop her new baby daughter from watching television — which she describes as "poison" — and will encourage her to read the Bible. She says that she intends to remain a single mother but is bothered by her reputation of being "anti-family" ..... Page 9



## TV LISTINGS

Preview: Adam Hart-Davis sets off in search of British scientific pioneers (BBC 2 8pm). Review: Diana Rigg was in top form in *Rebecca* ..... Page 43

## OPINION

**Hidden agenda**

One cannot fail to note an irony in the first Labour Government for 18 years implementing policies that the Liberal Party has failed in the past 80 years to persuade the public to accept ..... Page 19

**Newt on the rack**

Newt Gingrich is not irreplacable but any successor is unlikely to bring the same combination of vision and the ability to broker compromise ..... Page 19

**Fleeting fame**

Nelson Mandela will not grieve that he has been usurped by the idols of Britpop ..... Page 19

## COLUMNS

**WILLIAM REES-MOGG**

Tony Blair's success in building a coalition of progressive opinion is almost breathtaking. The Liberal Democrats have been lured into constitutional talks which make Tony Blair appear a better Liberal Democrat than Paddy Ashdown ..... Page 18

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

Everyone should make a new year's resolution. Mine is to start making serious plans to reach the desolation of Kerguelen ..... Page 18

## CERTAINITIES

Barry East, property developer; Jim Rodger, sports journalist and fundraiser; Mireille, French singer ..... Page 21

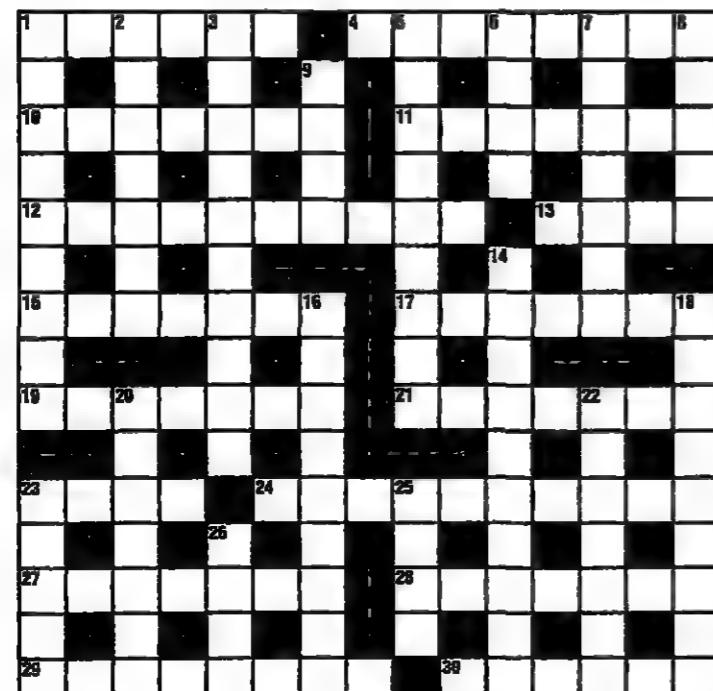
## LETTERS

Abortion as political issue; Elgin Marbles; Ebonics; Meridian line; investigations of MPs ..... Page 19

## THE PAPERS

Germany does not enjoy much sympathy in Russia: memories of Hitler's invasion are still fresh in Moscow, and more recently Gorbachev opposed German reunification. Yet Helmut Kohl has become the Kremlin's best friend. Despite repeated Nyets from Yeltsin to Nato enlargement to the East, the Alliance has clearly sent Kohl to Moscow as an informal envoy ..... *La Repubblica*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,369

**ACROSS**

- 1 Hope for a high church position (6).
- 4 Repeatedly, Charlie bunting sees bumper off (8).
- 10 Volume of city traffic (7).
- 11 Royal lady who got cross at every half, being late (7).
- 12 Those who plan the Arctic's development (10).
- 13 Black Prince retreating? Non-sense! (4).
- 15 Anger sovereign and country (7).
- 17 Met with diet problem, so put out (7).
- 19 Tide for a newspaper, say (7).
- 21 Bellows, or maybe mutter, about parking (7).
- 23 Firm call to stop talking in the club (4).
- 24 Librarian who ensures all returns are duly dealt with! (4-6).
- 27 Quicker to see point in a riddle (7).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,368 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 44

## WEATHER REPORTS

## Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather - All regions: 0336 401 410

Inside P25: 0336 401 746

M25 and Link Roads: 0336 401 747

Channel Europe: 0336 401 748

Channel crossings: 0336 401 749

Planning to Heathrow & Geltland airports: 0336 407 505

Weather by Fax

Dot 0336 faxed by area number from our fax

Weather Country: 416 3235 Scotland: 416 3241

Midlands: 416 3235 London: 416 3242

East Anglia: 416 3277 National Satellite Weather picture: 416 3292

MetFax: Northern Ireland: 416 3297

MetFax: Northern Ireland: 416 3298

World City Weather: 0336 412116

155 destinations world wide 4 day forecasts by Phone: 0336 412116

by Fax: 0336 412116

Marketing

Europe Country by Country: 0336 401 885

European fuel costs: 0336 401 886

French Motorways: 0336 401 887

Sport: Information: 0336 401 888

Overseas Pubs: 0336 401 889

Le Shuttle: 0336 401 895

Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars: 0336 416 299

Dot from your fax header, you may have to get a fax receive mode

45. Royal Mail Freecall 100 300 300

Calls are charged at 45p per minute cheap rates, 50p per minute at all other times.

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sunrise: 8.05 am Sunset: 4.08 pm

Moonrise: 2.02 pm Moonset: 4.45 am

New moon: January 9 London: 0.05 pm to 2.05 am

Bristol: 4.16 pm to 2.14 am

Edinburgh: 2.55 pm to 8.41 am

Manchester: 4.07 pm to 8.43 am

Persephone: 4.36 pm to 4.36 pm

Worldwide: 0336 401 896

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hr to 5pm: h=high c=cloudy d=drizzle s=snow fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5pm to 8pm: s=snow fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8pm to 11pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11pm to 2am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2am to 5am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5am to 8am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8am to 11am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11am to 2pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2pm to 5pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5pm to 8pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8pm to 11pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11pm to 2am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2am to 5am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5am to 8am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8am to 11am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11am to 2pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2pm to 5pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5pm to 8pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8pm to 11pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11pm to 2am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2am to 5am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5am to 8am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8am to 11am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11am to 2pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2pm to 5pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5pm to 8pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8pm to 11pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11pm to 2am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2am to 5am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5am to 8am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8am to 11am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11am to 2pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2pm to 5pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5pm to 8pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8pm to 11pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11pm to 2am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2am to 5am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5am to 8am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8am to 11am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11am to 2pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2pm to 5pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5pm to 8pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8pm to 11pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11pm to 2am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2am to 5am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5am to 8am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8am to 11am: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11am to 2pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

2pm to 5pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

5pm to 8pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

8pm to 11pm: fl=flurries g=gale r=rain

11pm to 2am: fl=flurries g=g

MONDAY JANUARY

TODAY IN

THE TIMES GREAT SEASIDE OF SPORT

## GOING FISHING

Brian Clarke  
on a renowned  
angler making  
a new cast  
PAGE 33

## EUROPEAN SUMMIT

Joy for Leicester,  
defeat for Cardiff  
in the Heineken  
Cup PAGE 30

## COURTING SUCCESS

Another year, another  
landmark for  
Tim Henman  
PAGE 25

## WINNING FORMULA

Part one: why  
winter holds the key  
to grand prix  
ambitions PAGE 33

## TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

GALLANTRY UNREWARDED AS HOLDERS OPEN FA CUP DEFENCE



Walker, the goalkeeper, is left helpless as Beckham, right, breaches the Tottenham defensive wall to score Manchester United's second goal at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspinall

## Beckham blunts Spurs

Manchester United ..... 2  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 0

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

MANCHESTER United, attempting an unprecedented fourth consecutive appearance in the FA Cup Final, overcame a tactically proficient, tenacious Tottenham Hotspur, before 52,495 spectators at Old Trafford yesterday. They then learnt that their visitors in the next round will be the other London branch of perseverance, Wimbledon FC, assuming no heroes from Crewe Alexandra when their third-round tie is played.

However, we must hail the spirit and ingenuity with which Tottenham made such a game of it yesterday. They arrived without six quality players — Sheringham, Armstrong, Anderson, Scales, Mabbut and Iversen. Moreover, Tottenham have now travelled to Old Trafford 13 times since the start of Alex

Ferguson's tenure and won but twice.

So, even history was against the white-shirted innocents in this third-round tie, which should have been such a classic. Manchester United, winners of the FA Cup nine times, and Tottenham, its holders on eight occasions, share the most illustrious past in a tournament that has run for 125 years.

Yet how do you take on United when your team has been ravaged and when it has recently conceded six goals at Bolton Wanderers and then seven at Newcastle United. The faith that poured down from the Tottenham section of this crowd, their blue and white balloons filling the air, was defiance and outrageous optimism personified.

It was later to turn nasty: "Are you Arsenal in disguise?" the fans in white taunted; "End of your season" the red brigades responded. Why must they do it? Why is it not enough to support a team and take the game at face value?

At least, on the field, Tottenham let me one down. They had an emergency strike force in two 19-year-olds, Roy Allen paired with Neil Fenn, so ebullient on his first outing for the first team. Behind them, Simon, brought in from the wing, was creative and lent his experience to those around him. Better still, Howells, in the anchor role, was a true captain of the depleted force.

**Valiant Charlton** ..... 26  
Redknapp moans ..... 27  
Full results ..... 28  
Souness rages ..... 29

And then there was Campbell. "Big GARTH" he was dubbed as a youth; big indeed in the way he dealt with Cantona's opportunities.

More redeployment came on the flanks, particularly the right where Carr and Austin tried to contain the pace and trickery of Giggs. That should not sound too negative, for

Tottenham came to play foot-

ball, to counter-attack with pace and movement.

Ferguson said: "It was a credit to Gerry Francis that he could pull a team out of the hat like that. What gave us a little edge was the two young players up front against the experience of May and Johnson."

Ferguson further identified Keane, the embodiment of cup-spirit and dynamism as "marvellous — there was not a player within a thousand miles of him, the way he found a red jersey all the time".

Perhaps so, but Keane also has a recklessness that, in the 31st minute could have got him sent off.

He raced behind Nielsen, he fouled him wickedly and then pursued the ball, raising his boot in an ugly fashion against the out-stretched leg of Edinburgh.

A yellow card for two yellow-card offences and, come the European Cup resumption, Keane will not get away with that.

United, meanwhile, had profited from Allen's inexperi-

ence when, from a cross by Fen, he mis-headed the ball from a scoring position at the far post. Gradually Beckham was inviting United to break through. In the 26th minute, Giggs squandered a wonderful chance from Beckham when he allowed Walker to make a superb save. The goalkeeper arched his back and palmed the ball away with both hands; yet, from eight yards, Giggs should not have allowed him the glory.

But Giggs was to finish the match as a contest nine minutes from time with a peerless free kick. We talk of Brazilians being able to conjure bias and swerve at their will on a dead ball. Beckham can do that, too.

Calderwood, lucky not to receive his second caution when he brought down Giggs, was punished when Beckham addressed the free kick from 22 yards. He ran at it side-on; he used the instep of his right foot, yet he produced not only the guile and spin, but also tremendous ferocity, giving Walker not a ghost of a chance as the ball arced into the roof of his net.

Tottenham had spirit. At times Fen looked a player for the present rather than the future. He gave May a hard time, and later we learnt that the United defender will have an operation today on a hernia problem that has troubled him for two months.

Irwin, taken off with a hamstring strain, may also miss the next match, which happens to be next Sunday, against Tottenham at White Hart Lane. "People think our season is over," Francis said. "It hurts to be out of the Cup at the first attempt, but those players did us proud today.

It's not unrealistic for us to aim to finish high enough in the league to reach Europe.

**FA CUP FOURTH ROUND**

Match 1: Liverpool v Birmingham or West Ham United  
Match 2: Charlton Athletic or Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest  
Match 3: Sheffield United v Coventry City or Woking  
Match 4: Bolton Town or Bolton Wanderers v Chesterfield or Bristol City  
Match 5: Birmingham City v Stoke City or Stockport County  
Match 6: QPR or Hartlepool United v Barnet or Oldham Athletic  
Match 7: Portsmouth v Reading  
Match 8: United or Tranmere Rovers v Sheffield Wednesday  
Match 9: Epsom v Bradford City  
Match 10: Middlesbrough Town or York City v Middlesbrough  
Match 11: Chester v Liverpool  
Match 12: Gillingham or Derby County v Notts County or Aston Villa  
Match 13: Leicester City or Southend United v Norwich City  
Match 14: Sunderland or Crystal Palace or Leeds United  
Match 15: Brentford or Manchester City v Watford or Oxford United  
Match 16: Middlesbrough United v Crewe Alexandra or Wimbledon  
*Note: To be played on January 25 and 26*

How do you feel  
about your  
phone bill?



First Telecom offers national and international calls at up to 60% less than other networks.

One call from your existing touch tone phone links you to the world's largest and most dependable fibre optic network.

There are no connection or line rental charges - you don't even have to change your current phone number.

Fantastic savings, friendly service and crystal clear connections.

It's enough to put a smile on your face.

**FIRST TELECOM**

THE FUTURE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
0800 376 6666  
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24 HOURS

FIRST TELECOM IS A REGISTERED TRADE MARK.  
ALSO USED IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AS A TRADE NAME.





## Four sent off as Juventus crash at Parma

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JUVENTUS, the European champions, are coming under increasing pressure in Serie A after defeat at Parma yesterday in an ill-tempered match. A goal from Mario Chiesa in the second minute settled a contest in which both sides had two players sent off.

Torricelli was dismissed for a second bookable offence shortly before half-time and the Parma forwards, Chiesa and Mellì, and Zidane of Juventus, all followed for rough play between the 64th and 66th minutes.

Vicenza took advantage of Parma's return to form by beating Bologna 2-0 to move into second place, three points behind Juventus. Marcelo Otero, their Uruguayan striker, scored both goals.

Sampdoria and Internazionale also won. Sampdoria beating Udinese 5-4 with the help of a hat-trick from Roberto Mancini while the

**European results** 28  
**Distinctive Duffy** 29

Milan side got the better of Roma by a 2-1 margin.

In Spain, an 87th-minute goal by Juan Pizzi, a substitute, gave Barcelona a deserved 1-0 victory at Deportivo La Coruña, which lifted them a point clear of Real Madrid, who were due to play Athletic Bilbao last night.

The game marked the return to form of Ronaldo, the Brazilian striker, who has not scored for five games. Ronaldo hit the woodwork and had another effort cleared off the line for Bobby Robson's side.

Pizzi had been on the field only two minutes when his header was deflected past the goalkeeper.

There were two goals for another Brazilian striker, Mario Jardel, in Porto's 3-1 home win over Guimaraes which extended the Portuguese champions' unbeaten run this season and maintained their five-point lead at the top.

Benfica, who beat Leça 5-1, are second and meet Porto next Saturday in one of Portugal's most eagerly awaited games of the season.

**FOOTBALL: NEWCASTLE PAY FOR GOALKEEPING ERROR IN FA CUP THIRD-ROUND TIE**

## Hislop hands replay to Charlton

Charlton Athletic ..... 1  
Newcastle United ..... 1

By DAVID MILLER

THE oddest of FA Cup ties: joyous for Charlton Athletic in holding aloft Newcastle United to a draw yesterday, frustrating for the visitors and unsatisfactory for any neutral.

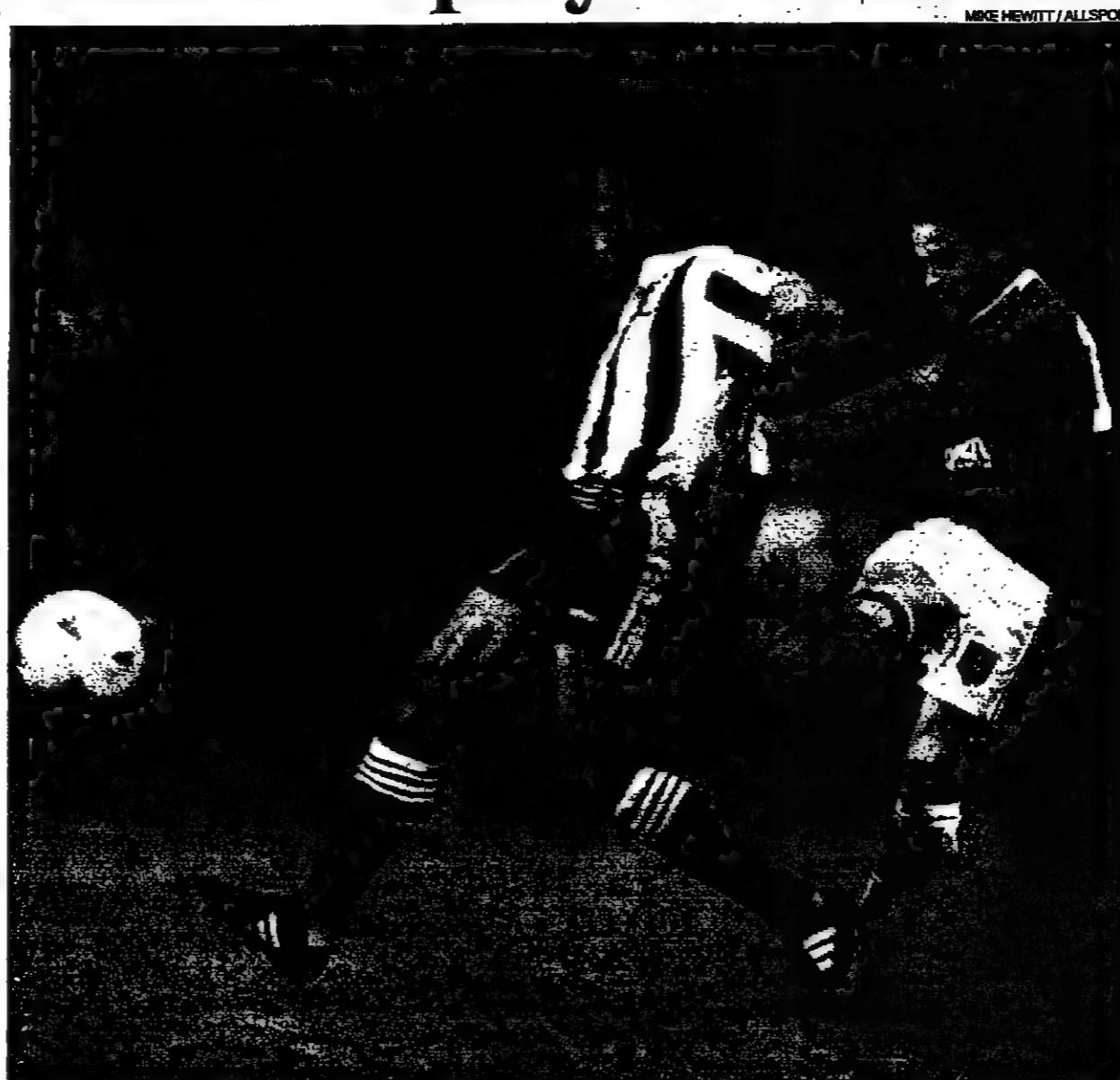
Charlton, midway down the Nationwide League first division, had the better of no more than an opening spell in either half, yet took Newcastle, who are still searching for a touch that seems lost, to a second meeting, tomorrow week, after two clumsy goals — the first poorly struck and the second poorly saved — and after two clear penalties had been inexplicably denied by the referee.

The detail will not dilute the satisfaction, on a chill afternoon, for Charlton spectators anxious to revive the Cup runs that first awakened my own interest just after the Second World War: defeat at Wembley at the hands of the intangible Doherty and Carter, then victory over Burnley. The Valley was throbbing again, though nowadays a full house means 15,000 rather than the 80,000 that was possible in my youth.

Sam Bartram, hero of those days, would have envied the save by Andy Peterson, an Australian goalkeeper of modest experience that prevented Beardisley from sealing victory for Newcastle with 17 minutes remaining. Breaking clear on the right of a Charlton defence caught pressing forward in search of an equaliser, Beardisley let rip a fearsome shot from the edge of the penalty area which Peterson, with fine judgment, pulled out of the air high to his right.

Six minutes later, Mark Kinsella scored the equalising goal that rewarded Charlton more for effort than talent. Although they had attacked Newcastle's suspect defence regularly, they had penetrated as far as Hislop only occasionally. When Kinsella now tested him severely for the only time in the match, Hislop was found wanting.

There had seemed no danger. Charlton were working a tight move out on the right touchline, seemingly hemmed in by Newcastle markers, when the ball was slipped left to Kinsella. He benefited from Lee's vain interception and,



Kinsella holds off Ferdinand's challenge to score Charlton Athletic's late equaliser at The Valley yesterday

with no warning, he made five yards and let fly from way out. Hislop saw the shot all the way, got his hands to the ball, yet allowed it to slip through his grasp. "The goalkeeper should have had it," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "I'm sure he will be disappointed."

Unless something goes seriously awry at St James' Park, Newcastle should reach the fourth round and home tie against Nottingham Forest, but this often ragged match confirmed that their decline in the FA Carling Premiership has identifiable roots, most notably the lack of intelligent football from the back.

Hislop had been on the field only two minutes when his header was deflected past the goalkeeper.

There were two goals for another Brazilian striker, Mario Jardel, in Porto's 3-1 home win over Guimaraes which extended the Portuguese champions' unbeaten run this season and maintained their five-point lead at the top.

Benfica, who beat Leça 5-1, are second and meet Porto next Saturday in one of Portugal's most eagerly awaited games of the season.

and the experience of the mercurial Beardisley in central midfield, tucked in behind Shearer and Ferdinand, and upon the first-half dynamism of Lee, returning to his former home ground. The goal that Lee scored after 32 minutes, however, could only be the goal of the month if it were the only goal of the month, a bizarre tale of two mis-hits.

A long cross from the wing was headed down by a straining Shearer, and at the first attempt Lee missed the ball completely. Chapple, arriving late, also failed to connect with a sliding challenge, and at the second attempt, Lee was able to beat Peterson with a shot that came unintentionally off the outside of the foot.

The first, and more obvious, intent, if mainly without effect. They were fortunate to be doing so only one goal behind. Lee having struck a post with almost the last kick of the first half.

Now came Peterson's memorable save and Kinsella's equaliser. In the remaining ten minutes, Newcastle might have snatched victory. Shearer clearly had his foot taken when Peterson dived at a loose ball which he failed to reach, while Clark was only denied by a timely tackle from Rufus.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-3-3): A Peterson; M Hartson, M Kneller, G Speed; M Elkins, P Elkins, G Stewart; G Speed — M Elkins, D Ferguson (sub: A Grant, 86min).

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-1-2): S Hales — S Watson, D Peacock, P Hobart, J Morrison, D McNamee, P Rutherford, P Beardsley — A Shearer, P Fordehead.

Referee: O Allison.

## Culverhouse's rapid red card sinks Swindon

Everton ..... 3  
Swindon Town ..... 0

By PETER BALL

FOOTBALL matches are meant to last 90 minutes. Everton's FA Cup third round tie with Swindon lasted 52 seconds as a competitive game, the time it took Ian Culverhouse to set a new and unwanted record as the quickest ever dismissal in FA Cup history:

By the finish, Swindon, with Elkins also sent off for a second bookable offence, were down to nine men but the damage had been done much earlier. In Everton's first attack, Culverhouse was adjudged to have handled as he flung himself to block Andrei Kanchelskis' shot on the goal-line. His protest that the ball had hit his chest were unavailing. Neale Barry produced the red card and Kanchelskis hit home the penalty, leaving Swindon a goal down and facing the remaining 89 minutes with ten men.

"My player is adamant he didn't handle, and if that's the case the referee's ruined a perfectly good game," Steve McMahon, the Swindon manager, said. "The game is over as a contest because it's not only given a goal away but we're down to ten men."

"It's such a big anti-climax. We had prepared so well and our expectations were so high. We thought we had a heck of a chance. Everton have been going through a tricky period and if ever there was a right time to catch them, this was it. — but not with ten men."

The gaps in the stands revealed the depth of uncertainty on Merseyside, and Everton's unbalanced team, the result of a rash of injuries and suspensions, left them looking vulnerable. But if anything was geared to settle their nerves after two successive home defeats, it was an early goal. Their cares were few.

Yet Swindon took some credit for their immediate reaction, even if by the end their spirit had declined. Initially, their response to losing one of their three central defenders was to play with two, keeping the balance of the team elsewhere. It was a high

risk policy and at times they were in danger of being overrun. They escaped that but, sadly, fortune did not favour the brave Southall and the woodwork denying them reward for some brave attacking.

Instead an error by Walters, under-taking a back-pass which presented Nick Barmby with the second goal after 18 minutes, was where the match really ended as a contest.

Yet in between the opening two goals, only Southall's brilliant save kept out Horlock's header, and after the second Swindon came even closer. Walters received the ball from Allison, spotted Southall off his line, but was frustrated as his beautifully judged chip came back off the bar, a poor reward for a piece of audacious skill.

It was not to be Walters' day on his return to Merseyside. Before the interval the former



Ferguson: third goal

Liverpool had pulled up limping after bursting past Barrett, and his contribution had ended by half-time.

Swindon reshuffled again, but before their new formation, reverting to three at the back, could prove effective Ferguson, added Everton's third, with a leaping header, and all that remained was for Elkins to be sent off quarter of an hour before the end for pulling down Ferguson, having already been booked for a lunge at Kanchelskis.

EVERTON (3-4-3): E Beardsley, D Hartson, M Kneller, G Stewart, G Speed — M Elkins, D Ferguson (sub: A Grant, 86min).

SWINDON (4-3-2-1): F Dolby — M Keown, N Kenyon, C Lawless, G Elkins — M Robinson, G Elkins, D Ferguson (sub: A Grant, 86min), G Elkins — M Robinson, G Elkins, D Ferguson (sub: A Grant, 86min).

Referee: N Barry.

**IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE**

## 'I want to manage Liverpool'

John Barnes on following Roy Evans

**Everything I've done since leaving United has been to prove Alex Ferguson wrong'**

Paul McGrath gets even

**NEW LOOK**

**goal**

**FREE BOOK**

**THE BEST OF McMANNEY FOOTBALL**

**QUEENS PARK RANGERS** (4-4-2): A Roberts — M Graham, D Maddie, K Reilly, R Bruce — T Sinclair, G Peacock, S Edwards, B Bremner, T Cowan, P Reid — J Spencer, D O'Doherty (sub: M Hume), 76.

**HUDDERSFIELD TOWN** (4-4-2): A Newell (sub: S Collins), 311 — I Heavy (sub: P Reid), 49, S Jenkins, J Dyson, T Cowan — R Edwards, D Edwards, L Martin, G Crosby — P Payton, I Lauren (sub: W Burket), 87.

Referee: E Lomas

**THE ESSENTIAL FOOTBALL MONTHLY**

**FEBRUARY ISSUE ON SALE NOW**

## Perez performs and Sunderland breathe again

Arsenal ..... 1  
Sunderland ..... 1

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

AT HALF-TIME, Arsenal's players told their manager, Arsène Wenger, that they should have had a penalty. Sunderland's players told their manager, Peter Reid, it was a case of unintentional handball. Neither manager had observed what happened when, close to the interval, Lionel Perez, Sunderland's French goalkeeper, blocked Hartson's header from Winterburn's in-swinging corner. Both struck the ball back, and Melville's upstretched hand stopped it on the line.

Or it may just be that Arsenal still lack the midfield creator to do the unexpected. In the absence of David Platt, who hardly possesses such qualities, and the deferential Remi Garde, a Northern Ireland defender of modest capabilities, Morrow, was given a central midfield role beside

"I've seen them given and I've seen them not given," Reid said, philosophically. Had Arsenal then scored from the spot, making the score 2-1, it is probable they would have gone on to win this FA Cup third round tie.

"We played well for one hour and in the last half-hour, we didn't have the resources to put Sunderland under pressure," Wenger said. It may be physical or we were mentally tired.

Or it may just be that Arsenal still lack the midfield creator to do the unexpected. In the absence of David Platt, who hardly possesses such qualities, and the deferential Remi Garde, a Northern Ireland defender of modest capabilities, Morrow, was given a central midfield role beside

Stewart Houston, their manager, called a "get-it, give-it-away" display. Hately craned his neck to find his range and placed his 20-yard shot inside the post, past a scrambling Cowan, before wheeling away to salute the bo-boys who had greeted his arrival as substitute.

Earlier, Cowan had denied another of the Ibrox class of 91, stopping the ball dead with his feet as John Spencer headed down Impey's corner and then scoring away his follow-up shot. Spencer credited his friend's intervention with a notably unsentimental commentary.

"Don't forget we scored a good goal of our own," Cowan said. "Although I would have said it." Roberts was, in fact, given no chance as Crosby rammed in a ball pulled back by Edwards in the 64th minute.

Hately was certainly impressed by his choice of stand-in. "Scotland might have found a goalkeeper," he said. Negotiations for the role as star-turn, fourth-choice keeper will have to be reopened at Leeds Road this week, however, as Cowan will miss the replay tomorrow week. He is suspended.

He is suspended.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A Roberts — M Graham, D Maddie, K Reilly, R Bruce — T Sinclair, G Peacock, S Edwards, B Bremner, T Cowan, P Reid — J Spencer, D O'Doherty (sub: M Hume), 76.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): A Newell (sub: S Collins), 311 — I Heavy (sub: P Reid), 49, S Jenkins, J Dyson, T Cowan — R Edwards, D Edwards, L Martin, G Crosby — P Payton, I Lauren (sub: W Burket), 87.

Referee: E Lomas

## Plucky Cowan proves Horton's saving grace

Queens Park Rangers ..... 0  
Huddersfield Town ..... 1

By WALTER GAMMIE

AS Tony Norman, the Huddersfield Town goalkeeper, bounded in the penalty area at Loftus Road on Saturday, hamstring ripped in bending for a back-pass, Brian Horton, the manager, and a clutch of players held an animated forum on the touchline.

With no reserve goalkeeper on the bench, bids were raised in to take over for the remaining hour of the all-Nationwide League first-division

FA Cup third-round tie.

"I had three or four volunteers and I didn't fancy any of them," Horton said. "Bobby [Darren Bullock] would normally do it but he'd got a hand injury." Finally, as Norman hobbled off, he peeled off his green jersey and handed it to Tom Cowan, the full back, who towers at 5ft 8in or 5ft 8½in by his own estimation.

Fifty-eight minutes later, Cowan was on the verge of a final tumultuous reception that would probably have seen him borne back to Yorkshire on the shoulders of the high-spirited travelling contingent, when he was beaten by Mark Hately, with whom he had shared winning the Scottish League at Rangers in 1991.

Hately's equaliser was rather better crafted than anything else. Rangers produced

in what Stewart Houston, their manager, called a "get-it, give-it-away" display. Hately craned his neck to find his range and placed his 20-yard shot inside the post, past a scrambling Cowan, before wheeling away to salute the bo-boys who had greeted his arrival as substitute.

Earlier, Cowan had denied another of the Ibrox class of 91, stopping the ball dead with his feet as John Spencer headed down Impey's corner and then scoring away his follow-up shot. Spencer credited his friend's intervention with a notably unsentimental commentary.

"Don't forget we scored a good goal of our own," Cowan said. "Although I would have said it." Roberts was, in fact, given no chance as Crosby rammed in a ball pulled back by Edwards in the 64th minute.

Hately was certainly impressed by his choice of stand-in. "Scotland might have found a goalkeeper," he said. Negotiations for the role as star-turn, fourth-choice keeper will have to be reopened at Leeds Road this week, however, as Cowan will miss the replay tomorrow week. He is suspended.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A Roberts — M Graham, D Maddie, K Reilly, R Bruce — T Sinclair, G Peacock, S Edwards, B Bremner, T Cowan, P Reid — J Spencer, D O'Doherty (sub: M Hume), 76.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): A Newell (sub: S Collins), 311 — I Heavy (sub: P Reid), 49, S Jenkins, J Dyson, T Cowan — R Edwards, D Edwards, L Martin, G Crosby — P Payton, I Lauren (sub: W Burket), 87.

Referee: E Lomas

**Cool Dreyer makes Wycombe wonder**

Wycombe Wanderers ..... 0  
Bradford City ..... 2

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHEN a player of Chris Waddle's poise, balance and intelligence is consistently reduced to performing little better than a novice ice-skater, slithering all over the place and frequently ending up on his backside, there has to be a problem with the pitch.

Those around him at Adams Park yesterday were similarly afflicated in a vigorous FA Cup third-round tie.

Waddle, the former England winger, eventually adjusted to the awkward surface by releasing the ball as soon as he had received it.

His Bradford City teammates adopted an equally simplistic approach and, from a paltry five shots, they terminated Wycombe Wanderers' interest in the competition.

# Stevenage too sophisticated for their own good

Simon Barnes regrets the passing of FA Cup tradition as a 2-0 win takes Birmingham City into the fourth round at non-league side's expense

I really am getting old. This week I realised that I can remember Real Cup-Tie I even met Chris Kelly, the "Leatherhead Lip", and Dickie Guy, who saved the penalty from Peter Lorimer for a non-league team called Wimbledon, when I was a cub reporter. I thought then that these men were part of a great tradition. I see now that they were the last of their line.

## The big clubs used to face a test of heart

In those distant days, the top teams were summoned to strange battlefields for an examination not of their skills but of their hearts. Ideally, the pitch was precipitous and muddy, and thousands of people in holiday humour rocked in from the pubs of the town to pack together more or less on the touchline.

The home town played a game called Kick and Rush, which was a lot like football in some ways. Generally, they kicked the nearest

opponent and rushed off somewhere else. These were cheery, exhilarating occasions for all except the overdogs; an agreeable one might say an essential change in football's routine.

Then Watford and, later, Wimbleton introduced Kick and Rush to the top division, and it ceased to be a novelty. Meanwhile, television

had everyone with the rhythms of more complex versions of the game. These days, non-league clubs take

on the big clubs at their own pace, that is to say, football. It is hardly surprising, then, that they nearly always lose.

Stevenage Borough are what is generally termed "a decent side". That is why they lost 2-0 to Birmingham City in the third round of the FA Cup on Saturday. If they had been a more indecisive side, played a few boozing balls over the top and generally gone at

their opponents like loonies, they might have stolen a win, but instead, they "played football". They did so very respectfully, and therefore they lost. Very respectfully. They were inclined to be rather euphoric afterwards. They had "lived with" the bigger side. But they came second.

The tie should have been played at Stevenage. One can hardly blame police for being overcautious in advising the switching of the tie, especially as 15,000 people turned up at St Andrews', but it was a decision that made certain of the outcome.

The tie had its moments, and both sides played all right, but the non-leaguers were subtly and consistently outplayed.

Stevenage came with two stars, a forward for whom they had refused £200,000 and a defender who plays in a bandanna. The

forward is Hayles, swift, skilful and built like a middleweight. The defender is (we really must have his full name) Efechukwu Sodje, the son of a Nigerian chief. He wears a bandanna because his mother told him always to keep his head covered when he played football.

Both these men were worth watching. Both played excellent football, but each must share the responsibility for defeat. Hayles might — might — have had a hat-trick in the first 20 minutes. He had one chance well blocked by a defender, then another when he

made clean contact with a volley and was a mite too high. Then, gorgeously, he sped through three defenders and shot goalwards, but Bennett, the Birmingham goalkeeper, took up a good position and made his block, and that turned the match.

Birmingham have built a reputation for impregnability this season, and they have done so with

the help of a gentleman named Bruce, late of Manchester United. Hayles fancied his chances, but Bruce has grown old and grey disposing of strikers who fancy their chances.

You can say all you like about Bruce's lack of pace and ball skills, but after 20 minutes he had not so much subdued Hayles as *fear* him. Bruce had got the hang of the way that Hayles's mind worked and his body moved. He was no longer acting preventatively, he

was playing pre-emptively. That in a line, is where difference in class counts.

Perhaps if Stevenage had kicked the ball over Bruce's head and allowed Hayles to chase it, they might have done better, but, these days, sides like Stevenage cannot cast off their hard-won sophistication to order. You need Nick and Rush in the blood, and teams don't really have it any more.

Meanwhile, Sodje was doing a great job as a footballing centre half. The ver' term was a contradiction in the days of the Real Cup-Tie but, alas, he overfootballled himself after 36 minutes. "I tried to be too clever and it didn't work out," he said honestly. Devlin nipped in and stole the ball from beneath Sodje's footballing feet, crossed for Francis to tap in and that, really, was that.

Devlin and Bowen caused dismay for the rest of the afternoon. Birmingham had built a reputation for impregnability this season, and they have done so with the help of a gentleman named Bruce, late of Manchester United. Hayles fancied his chances, but Bruce has grown old and grey disposing of strikers who fancy their chances.

You can say all you like about Bruce's lack of pace and ball skills, but after 20 minutes he had not so much subdued Hayles as *fear* him. Bruce had got the hang of the way that Hayles's mind worked and his body moved. He was no longer acting preventatively, he

## 'Now the days of kick and rush are gone'

be an asset to the Cup. They are a modern footballing side. The FA Cup is not a modern footballing concept.

Also,

**STEVENAGE** (4-2-3-1): M. Daberry, C. Clarke, P. R. Taylor, S. Evans, F. Barton, G. Harrison, J. Hayles, S. Sodje, N. Devlin, J. Bowen, S. Francis. Subs: M. Johnson, T. Bowes, S. Hart, P. Roberts, M. Jones.

**BIRMINGHAM CITY** (4-3-3): M. Bruce, J. McNeair, M. Smith, G. Wilson, S. Bowen, J. Ward, J. Edwards, J. Morris, T. Francis, P. Bowen. Subs: D. Williamson, J. Morris, T. Francis, P. Bowen, M. Jones.

## McGhee forced to look on bright side of defeat

**Wolverhampton W.....1**  
**Portsmouth.....2**

By PAT GIBSON

THE scoreline was not quite as emphatic as it had been at Wembley in 1939 when Portsmouth 4-1 to take possession of the FA Cup throughout the years of war — but it might well have been. And that should give everyone at Molineux cause for concern.

It was easy, as Mark McGhee, the Wolverhampton manager, said afterwards to deflect the disappointment of another inept home performance by calling it "a blessing in disguise" to a club which sees the Cup as a mere bauble compared with the Holy Grail of promotion to the FA Carling Premiership, and he readily accepted the invitation to do so.

The positive side is that while other people are playing Cup games we are going to be playing league games and that will give us a chance to make ground," he said.

"This club has been to the sixth round twice in the past three years yet we are still in the Nationwide first division. If the cost of not going to the sixth round is being promoted, then I think it is a cost that we will pay all."

The trouble with blessings in disguise is that they turn out to be fool's gold and it cannot have done much for Wolverhampton's self-esteem to have been so comprehensively outplayed by a Portsmouth side 13 places below them in the division.

This was their seventh defeat in 14 games at Molineux this season and although McGhee insists that they have proved that they can still win promotion by reaching fourth place on the strength of their magnificent away record, he does concede that they have a big problem.

Perhaps it is the way Wolverhampton play. Their whole game is based on getting the ball to the legendary Bull and when they fail to do that as conspicuously as they did on Saturday, the passionate crowd gets on their backs and their confidence evaporates.

Portsmouth, in contrast, grew more assured as the game went on, passing the ball better, getting their wide players behind the Wolverhampton defence and utilising the skills and mobility of their strikers, Hall and Bradbury, to win the game.

The pair combined to provide the cross that McGough headed past Stowell to put Portsmouth ahead in the 65th minute and then, after the substitute, Ferguson, had turned in the only decent cross Wolverhampton produced all afternoon, a minute later, Bradbury headed down Simpson's centre for Hall to score the winner.

Wolverhampton's wretched afternoon was summed up by the fact that their second-best scoring effort came from their goalkeeper, who went up for a corner in the last minute and forced Knight into his best save of the match. "I thought Stowell should have scored," McGhee said, tongue firmly in cheek. "He won't be playing up front next week, that's for sure."

**WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS** (3-5-2): M. Daberry, F. Labeau, S. Clarke, D. Parsons, D. West, E. Newton, R. di Matteo, S. Morris (sub: G. Wilson, 70min), G. Zola, M. Hughes (sub: G. Wilson, 75min).

**WEST BROMWICH ALBION** (3-5-2): P. Crerton, S. Murphy, D. Burgess, P. Raven (sub: R. Taylor, 60), P. Hobson, J. Hamilton, R. Sneddon, P. Groves (sub: P. Butler, 45), D. Smit (sub: J. Morris, 23), P. Bowler, A. Hunt. Subs: M. Jones.

Referee: M. Riley

**FOOTBALL: PORFIRIO RISES ABOVE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS TO SCORE GREAT LEVELLER AT THE RACECOURSE GROUND**

## Bleak midwinter makes Redknapp moan

**Wrexham**  
**West Ham United**

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOW easily England's press football elite forget their roots. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, began and ended the FA Cup third-round game at the Racecourse Ground on Saturday in sour condemnation of the referee's decision to play the game on a snowbound pitch, rather than count his blessings that his side survived at Wrexham, where Arsenal had fallen five years earlier to the day.

Of course, the ground was difficult. But, once Mike Reed, the referee, had properly decided at dawn that it was not likely to endanger the limbs of the precious athletes, then the fact that the ground beneath our feet became, in the quiet light, "a great leveller" was surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.

Redknapp, calling the state of the surface "scandalous" and insisting that it "legitimated against football" as he tries to teach it, must have forgotten as surely as Graeme Souness did at Reading on Saturday — that the romance of the third round has often embraced such things as the cloying mud of winter, the infamous Yeovil slope, even the frost that does from time to time descend in an English winter.

And, given that Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, do not have the means to renovate their derelict Mold Road paddock, which was desolate and empty on Saturday, how could the pampered players of the FA Carling Premiership expect to play a cup-tie there on conditions akin to, say, Highbury, where the undersoil heating costs £500 per day? West

Hammered, the Wrexham midfield player Williamson, of

surely nothing but the stuff of which FA Cup lore is built.



house  
ed car  
windo

## FOOTBALL

## Poll finds Souness in mood to argue

Reading ..... 3  
Southampton ..... 1  
By IAN TENNANT

**I**N HIS supposedly reposed middle age, Graeme Souness has been likened even to a pussycat. No longer, apparently, has he been throwing teacups at players or tantrums at referees. At least not until Southampton were knocked out of the FA Cup, rather too easily for his liking, by a team in the lower reaches of a lower division. In return, he might find a charge of bringing the game into disrepute hung back at him by the FA.

As the Southampton manager surveyed the remnants of his beaten team at the end of this absorbing tie — two players had been sent off in the last 14 minutes — he decided to restrain anybody else from having their say to the referee, Graham Poll, who is known to be strong on discipline. But he could not resist attempting to give his own viewpoint as well, which turned into a sharp exchange with a hefty security man. It was not edifying to watch the interval.

Then Souness had his say for the benefit of the media. "I spoke to the referee before the match and said I did not think the conditions were playable. He made two incredible statements. He said it would be just like a pitch in August and the players would be OK if they played at 90 per cent. But in the FA Cup, players don't go at 90 per cent."

"Mr Poll has a reputation within the game for wanting to make a name for himself and he certainly did that today. That is twice in a week that he has made players perform on a pitch that has been less than perfect." The other match to which he was referring was between Coventry City and Sunderland on New Year's Day.

The pitch, which was so hard that most of the players wore footware appropriate for an artificial surface, was passed fit on Friday, when it was so cold that the Thames at nearby Pangbourne was frozen over for the first time since the dreadful winter of 1963. Come Saturday lunchtime and the pipes at the ground were also frozen. "Chemical lavatories," the crowd were solemnly informed, had been

closed by 9am.

## Chester timidity self-defeating

Middlesbrough ..... 6  
Chester City ..... 0  
By MARK HODGSON

tracking Blackmore, who might have played nearly 200 games for Manchester United, but must have found this kind of attention flattering in the extreme.

Chester survived for 20 minutes before Ravallion put his burnished head to a goal-bound header from Vickers. A one-two between Ravallion and Hignett saw the latter slot home easily. Cox made it three as he shuffled along on his knees to meet another pass from the Italian. Ravallion scored from a stamp pass and then Beck, who found the net stylishly from just inside the area.

Chester played much better after conceding the second goal, finding a valour that had been missing hitherto. They wasted some decent chances before a shot from Shelton struck Whyte's hand and a penalty was awarded. Hignett

foolishly argued with the referee until he was booked for a second time and sent off. Noteman's appalling effort from the spot then almost reached the car park.

Stamp headed in Middlesbrough's sixth before three more wild bookings. Liddle for a foul on Milner, and Fjorstoft and Whelan for an off-the-ball spat.

Kevin Ratcliffe, the Chester manager, agreed that his team had defended too deeply, but found much to praise in their performance. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said his team had been "nice and professional".

MIDDLESBROUGH (6-2) G. Whyte (N. Cox (sub), C. Fleming, 46min., S. Vickers, D. Whyte (sub), P. Stans, 46, C. Blackmore, F. Ravallion, M. Beck (sub), J. A. Fjorstoft, 59).

CHESTER CITY (4-5-1) R. Steele — A. Whyte, S. Hignett (capt.), M. Beck, A. C. Priest, G. Shelton (capt.), G. Brown, 81, N. Fisher, K. Noteman (sub), G. Brown, 81, S. Ratcliffe (sub), G. Ratcliffe.

**W**hen setting out his credentials for the job of Hibernian manager, Jim Duffy may not have mentioned the cowboy boots and the Marilyn Monroe calendar. They were liable, all the same, to make an impression on a visitor to his office at Dens Park, when he was still in charge of Dundee, as he swung his feet up on the desk and leant back in his chair until his right shoulder was just below the picture of the movie star.

Given a suitable occasion, Duffy can be a playful man. At one phone session for an article he began by trying to strike the pose of the logo that was used in *The Saint* television series. He then decided that he was closer to an impersonation of Bruce Forsyth and started to work on that instead. "You won't get many managers doing this for you," Duffy

yelled, superfluously, to the photographer.

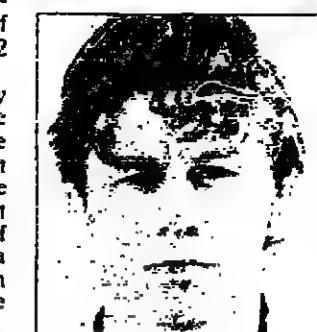
The distinctiveness is not that of a man who practises his idiosyncrasies, going through life with a counterfeit personality. Duffy simply follows his own instincts determinedly and the reactions of the bystander are of secondary importance. The impulses have been strong enough to make people fear for him.

When he was 28, in 1987, he suffered a grave knee injury while playing for Dundee and was told that he would have to retire, but Duffy could not resist returning to action. Although convinced by the specialists who told him that he could eventually be crippled if he continued to take part in games, prudence was overwhelmed by his desire for football.

It would only be a small surprise if, even now, he

had been badly affected by flu, failed on Friday in a request to have the match postponed, when the Scottish Football League decided that the club had sufficient resources left to fulfil the fixture, despite the submission of 28 medical certificates. Several of the players pressed into service did look as if they were battling against illness.

Despite being unwell, however, Brian Laudrup was able to create the equaliser for Erik Bo Andersen before winning the penalty from which Jorg Albertz clinched victory. The Rangers side had included eight internationals, with another two named as substitutes, and their temperature was at a higher level than that of the opposition so, too, were their skills.

STEVE  
McMANAMAN

feels relief at clearing the first FA Cup hurdle

## Still on course in our pursuit of four trophies

**T**he romance of the FA Cup. Maybe they should call it the relief of the FA Cup, because after the hectic Christmas we have endured, it offered something of a diversion. Five games in 12 days is some schedule.

It was not a great holiday period for Liverpool, and we are disappointed with the five points we achieved. But put it into perspective: we had three difficult away games and yet we emerged still at the top of the Premiership. We are in a good position, the position every other team wants to be in.

It allows us to concentrate on the cups, and after Saturday's match with Burnley we have a Coca-Cola quarter-final against Middlesbrough on Wednesday.

Chelsea away, FA Cup, Coca-Cola Cup, and then another league game. If you were to lose all those, your season would start to go pear-shaped. But, thankfully, it's not my style to worry. I am able to take a relaxed approach to the pressure we are under. It doesn't affect me unduly; I tend to be the optimist.

I know that we will be criticised for the manner of our win over Burnley, for not scoring more than one goal against a second division side, but the win was everything. And to be honest, they never remotely looked like scoring.

I was disappointed with the way they played, actually. They never really had a go and I thought they played better against us when we beat them 4-0 in pre-season training.

The upshot, though, is that Liverpool are still in every competition. People are already saying that we will become overstretched, play too many games. It has even been suggested that we should just concentrate on a couple of competitions, but I can't accept that. There is no way we could ever enter a match not wanting to win.

We want to do it in the Coca-Cola, too. It doesn't have the same drama as the FA Cup, but it is still Wembley. I remember when we beat Bolton in the 1995 final. It was a Sunday, which was not so good, and then we went back to Liverpool the next day, because we had a game on the Wednesday.

But it is still important, and if we can beat Middlesbrough, then there will be a semi-final to come. That's why we will go to the Riverside Stadium to give everything.

We beat them easily at home just before Christmas, but it will be a very different game this time. They will be pumped up for it because it is their chance to turn their season around a little. They have endured a lot of criticism, but if they can beat us to reach the semi-final, everything else will be forgotten for a while.

It is important to go for everything, to keep every option open. We have made the draw for the FA Cup fourth round comfortable, and can forget that for a little. Now the aim is to put the Coca-Cola Cup away successfully for a few weeks.

## Grimsby slide down great divide

Sheffield Wednesday ..... 7  
Grimsby Town ..... 1

By KEITH PRYKE

**A**NYONE searching for evidence of the widening gap between football's haves and have-nots would have enjoyed themselves hugely at Hillsborough on Saturday. Grimsby Town most certainly did not.

Stripped immediately of hope and ultimately of dignity, they were dismissed from the FA Cup with an arrogance bordering on contempt.

Eliminated in the previous two seasons by Charlton Athletic and Wolverhampton Wanderers, Sheffield Wednesday have invested their Pre-

mission riches well. Unbeaten in 11 matches against the cream of the English game, they were now too powerful, too professional and too prolific for the likes of Grimsby. Never have so many inflatable baddocks, and dreams, been deflated so ruthlessly.

After ten minutes of the second half I wanted the final whistle to go," Kenny Swain, the Grimsby caretaker-manager, said. "There is a gulf between the first division which Grimsby prop up and the Premier League, but it was magnified by some of the goals we conceded."

Wednesday for the Cup? Why not? Going unbeaten for the rest of the season might not win them the champion-

ship, but it would get them to Wembley, and having now proved that they can win without their injured Italian playmaker, Benito Carbone, they will hardly be wanting for confidence.

Indeed, judging by the way that they set about Grimsby — sometimes through the middle, mostly down the flanks, but always with pace and purpose — they are already short of self-belief already, and especially when the goal beckoned.

The most eye-catching of their strikes was the first lobbed beautifully over an errant and stranded goalkeeper by Humphreys from around 35 yards; the most culpable headed furiously

## Politics overshadow Pearce's progress

Nottingham Forest ..... 3  
Ipswich Town ..... 0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

**I**T IS a sorry state of affairs when the FA Cup third round — historically, 90 minutes of drama and dreams — pales into insignificance. Had Ipswich possessed a cutting edge to complement Scovcroft's deft endeavours up front and Sonner's craft in midfield, the result could have been radically different.

Would it have mattered to the bulk of the Forest supporters? Perhaps not. Some sections of their sparse ranks concentrated on chants of "Sack the board" rather than celebrations when success had been assured. With the club locked in the throes of a takeover, strapped for cash and still lurking ominously near the foot

of the FA Carling Premiership, there were more important items on the agenda.

Confusion, too, ahead of tonight's emergency general meeting, at which Forest's 20 shareholders will vote on the rival consortia attempting to take control of the club. "I think Stuart will take the job, probably on Monday," Alan Hill, Forest's assistant manager, said. "He's got the bit between his teeth, I think he'll be superb." Half an hour later, Pearce begged to differ. "I'll make my mind up in my own time, when it's right for me," he said.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2) M. Croxley — D. Little, C. Cooper, S. Critch, S. Pearce — C. Allen, I. Bishop, G. Williams, R. Allen, S. Thompson, P. Roberts — R. Humphreys, A. Booth (sub, O. Truscott 62) — K. Jobling (sub, J. McCormick 46), A. Fletcher, G. Redden, A. Saltmarsh — G. Chiles (sub, J. Carter 40), T. Wilkinson, N. Woods, K. Somers, C. Thomas, K. Dyer (sub, R. Naylor 82) — J. Scovcroft. Referee: D. Ellery

Hibernian have played two matches at Easter Road, losing 4-0 to Heart of Midlothian and, on Saturday, 2-1 to Rangers. Duffy was left to put his sense of humour to unwelcome use.

Admitting that he had yet to find his bearings in the stadium, he said: "People keep laughing when I open doors and walk straight into cupboards. If I have a couple more bad results they won't let me out again." With Hibernian lying seventh in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, the goodwill towards Duffy will soon reach its limits.

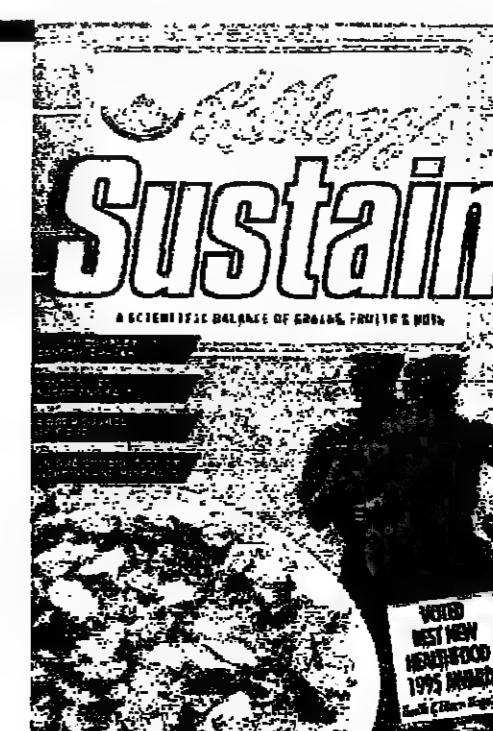
On Saturday, Hibernian took the lead and matched the champions for most of the first half, but their self-belief flagged after the interval. Yet this was an afternoon when conviction should have come readily to them. Rangers, who

**K**EVIN  
McCARRA

Scottish  
commentary

© 1987 Kellogg Company  
GO THE DISTANCE

**I**T'S A LONG ROAD TO WEMBLEY









Oliver Holt begins a series on the fallen Formula One giants emerging from hibernation

# Benetton set out to regain place in the sun



**F**ormula One motor racing has fewer new regulations than in past seasons, but it does have a new force. The living legend of Michael Schumacher preoccupies every team owner with pretensions to success. Flavio Briatore, the man who once owned the golden child, can read the rungs more accurately than most.

Briatore, the managing director, sits behind his desk in his office at the Benetton factory in Enstone, Oxfordshire, bathed in a half-light cast by the dark wood paneling that lines the room, staring out at the falling snow. "There is nobody out there like Schumacher," he says. "If you want to beat him, just make sure your car is a second quicker than the Ferrari. That is the only way."

That is the task. That is the bottom line. The duels that will take place on circuits from South America to Suzuka between early March and late October will play a part in the destiny of the drivers' and constructors' titles, but since everyone knows that nobody is Schumacher's equal, the crux lies in the equipment.

Although the first race, in Melbourne in early March, will be nerve-racking enough, the moment of truth is a lot closer. This is the week that team owners will begin biting their nails in earnest, watching as Ferrari unveil their new car at their headquarters in Maranello tomorrow, and then TWR Arrows launch the vehicle to propel Damon Hill into the next phase of his career at the Motor Show in Birmingham on press day on Thursday.

Even allowing for the complex deceptions — the "sandbagging" — that can dominate winter testing, the destination of the championship will probably be painfully apparent long before the cars line up on the grid for the Australian Grand Prix. If the cars are not quick out of the box, the saying goes, they never will be quick.

For all its summer fancies, its jaunts to Monte Carlo and to Monza, grand prix racing is really



Briatore, the Benetton managing director, has his eyes on the prizes at the team's headquarters in Oxfordshire, where he says his charges have wintered well

a winter's tale. In spring, its buds may wither on the branch; by summer, they have often fallen to the ground, rotting and yellowing. Now, in the months that straddle the end of the year, is the time when hope bursts into glorious technicolour in Formula One.

It is in full bloom at Enstone, at a team that learnt the hard way last year that if things are not right at the beginning of the season, there is little chance of putting them right during it, or at least not quickly enough to recover lost ground. "December, January and February," Briatore said. "They are the months you are not competing but you are preparing yourself for winning or losing."

Last season, Benetton could not cope with the loss of Schumacher and the process of adapting to two

new drivers, Gerhard Berger and Jean Alesi, who had different *modi operandi* to the young German. Mistakes were made, morale dropped. From taking the constructors' and Benetton's championships in 1995, Benetton did not win a race last year.

At the end of the season, they seemed like a team under siege.

Ross Brawn, their highly-rated technical director, defected to

Ferrari and their designer, Rory Byrne, retired from the sport.

There were even rumours, hotly denied by Benetton, that they were

in financial trouble and were

trying to get rid of Alesi. The winter, though, has rejuvenated them. Alesi and Berger are optimistic, happy now in their changed environment after struggling to settle in. Promotions from within to fill the gaps left by Brawn and Byrne seem to have fostered an *esprit de corps* that was, untypically, missing last year. At

last, there is a pervading sense of a new beginning at Benetton.

"We reached the end of a cycle last season," Briatore said. "When one cycle is finished you need to embark on another. It is like coming to the end of a curve on a graph. We had great success with Ross, but you always need to recognise when one period is finished.

"Sometimes, you create a big name, someone who has big success, but then you have to have the nerve to change the name. Now there is a new challenge for Pat Symonds, Ross's replacement.

## TOMORROW

Designs on success: why evolution not revolution is the way ahead for Benetton

MARC ASPLAND



Alesi: settled and optimistic

confident that the headstrong Frenchman will have matured enough in his attitude to put together a realistic attempt on the drivers' title.

"This is his last chance," Briatore said. "He has to show that he is not only talented but that he is a Formula One driver. He knows now that he has to spend more time with his engineers, involve himself deeper in the whole business of grand prix racing, and try to understand better what is going on. He needs to be part of the team, not something outside the team. This is what he was missing before and I need him to concentrate more on that."

"He changed from a very emotional situation to a very professional situation at the end of 1995 and it was too much for him to start with. When you change dramatically like that, it is like divorcing after many years and taking up with a new girlfriend. It can be a bit strange at first and you have to try to understand each other. Getting that right in the winter can be just as important as getting the car right and we did not have the time for either last year."

The rumours of financial problems, the suggestion that was floating around the sport several weeks ago that Benetton had missed out on significant bonus payments from sponsors because of their poor results, have disappeared, too, now that the season is drawing near.

"I like reading that kind of rubbish," Briatore said. "It is a good exercise for people who try to take money out of my pocket. But I know how much money I have in my pocket and I am happy."

Money in his pocket is one thing. Time up his sleeve after Ferrari run their new car will be a more priceless asset altogether.

## SWIMMING

**Klim steals the honours from Poll at World Cup**

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

**CLAUDIA POLL** Costa Rica's Olympic champion, won three gold medals but it was Michael Klim of Australia, who stole the show with four golds in the Epson World Cup short-course championships in Hong Kong yesterday.

Klim, 19, added two gold medals to the pair he won on Saturday as the Australian men outmuscled the Chinese women and headed the medal standings with nine golds to

China's seven.

Poll, the Olympic gold medal-winner in the women's 200 metres freestyle, yesterday won the women's 400 metres freestyle for her third gold medal of the meeting. She also collected silver in the 100 metres freestyle, losing out to Nian Yun of China. "I have not competed for two years so I am happy with three gold medals and my times," Poll said.

Klim, a protege of Gennady Turevski, the Russian who coached Alexander Popov, won the men's 200 metres freestyle and the 100 metres butterfly to complete a clean sweep of the events that he entered.

Mathew Dunn won the men's 200 metres individual medley and Adrian Radley's double in the 50 metres and 200 metres backstroke completed Australia's haul.

Adam Ruckwood, of Great Britain, came third behind Radley in the 200 metres, at which he is the Commonwealth champion, having also taken a bronze medal behind Radley in the 100 metres backstroke on Saturday.

Ian Wilson, who won bronze in the 400 metres freestyle on Saturday, followed up with third place in the 800 metres freestyle yesterday in 7min 54.76sec. 14 seconds adrift of Jorg Hoffmann, of Germany.

Results, page 35

## Yates reeling in the years with search for printed perfection

**Brian Clarke celebrates the launch of a magazine that breaks the angling mould**

and his friends have long fantasised about the perfect fishing magazine. It would be a magazine reflecting the values of the Golden Scale Club, a group of 21 anglers to which they belong — people who simply love angling, who rejoice in the newness and technology and who rejoice in the sports' freedom of spirit and tradition". Which is to say old-time, laid-back fishing, some of it serious.

And so Yates has agreed to be co-editor of *Waterlog*, a new bi-monthly angling journal, the first issue of which has just reached the news stands.

The magazine is being edited and managed by his friend, Jon Ward-Alen, who runs a small specialist publishing business, The Medlar Press. The address for subscription to *Waterlog* is The Grange, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 0DE.



Yates has a lifestyle that seems part of an angling idyll

*Waterlog* will pose no threat to the harlots of the angling press — indeed, it is aimed at a niche that has been deliberately ignored. There were, at the last count, over 30 fishing journals and magazines, almost all of them of the hardcore "how-to-catch-more-and-bigger" kind. There is simply nowhere for the relaxed, literate, all-round angler to go.

Yates and Ward-Alen feel: something for the angler who is simply in love with water and light and all things fishy and wants to read about them without being hectored.

And so Yates now finds himself at the centre of a cottage industry, which is to say his own cottage. While the children are at school and his wife is painting, Yates is at his production line, the old desk in his no-stove, no-heated study. There is no stove, a telephone that lives in a wicker creel with a hat

over it to keep the noise down, a pile of paper and a fountain pen. Fishing tackle and old books are all around.

Behind him, though, Yates has a deep knowledge of the best angling writing of the past and much goodwill. Together, they have made the first edition of *Waterlog* a diverse and beautiful thing.

Many famous writers, both past and present, are represented. Richard Walker, Bernard Venables, Maurice Ingham and "BB" are all there — every one a magical name for 50-somethings, hankering after a golden age of angling that may or may not have been quite as remembered.

More recent names feature.

Jeremy Paxman, Tom Fort and Peter Stone among them. Checklow and Chaucer bob up and, given the liberties taken, might well be consulting legal lawyers right now. There are stories of great fish, small fish, exotic fish, eels. There is much humour, some of it salty. There is "Mrs Walton's Cookbook" and "A Scientist Writes" column (this issue — "Cypriod Sensitivity to Wave-Emitting Aubergines"). There is an obituary slot where environmental tragedies and countryside losses are noted. It is an idiosyncratic and engaging mix, much as one might expect of a man who expresses his opinion of carbon-fibre rods by sticking them in the ground and growing beans up them.

The challenge is going to be to add a modicum of gravitas to the coverage — the first edition, for all its merits, is a little light — to hold on to the 50-somethings and to find enough 20-somethings, 30-somethings and 40-somethings to attract sales. With *Waterlog*, Yates and his friends have embarked on a courageous experiment that deserves to succeed. In the glass bowl of the publishing world, all manner of fish will be waiting to see if it can. Among them, one suspects, will be the big fish, too.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

**NETBALL**  
Lottery puts England on secure footing  
By LOUISE TAYLOR

WITH the England squad ranked in the world's top four, netball falls into the elite category eligible for the maximum grants available under the newly-established National Lottery Sports Fund.

Already the All-England Netball Association (AENA) has submitted its application for revenue awards for talented individuals and teams as it seeks to improve the country's world ranking and win medals in the world championships.

While individual wing attacks and goal shooters could qualify for subsistence grants of up to £28,000 each — thus enabling them to work part-time rather than full-time — the wider team aid would also allow for the employment of full-time coaches.

From Murtagh, the England captain and a full-time personnel officer in London, said: "Full-time coaches will allow us to compete against Australia and New Zealand on the world's leading netball nations. They have had full-time coaches for years and it shows: If England players and coaches didn't have to work full-time, it would be another very big incentive to really concentrate on netball.

The challenge is going to be to add a modicum of gravitas to the coverage — the first edition, for all its merits, is a little light — to hold on to the 50-somethings and to find enough 20-somethings, 30-somethings and 40-somethings to attract sales. With *Waterlog*, Yates and his friends have embarked on a courageous experiment that deserves to succeed. In the glass bowl of the publishing world, all manner of fish will be waiting to see if it can. Among them, one suspects, will be the big fish, too.

Her sentiments are fully endorsed by Liz Nicholl, the chief executive of AENA, who said: "Our long-term goal is to win the 2003 world championships. The netball performance plan we have submitted to the National Lottery Sports Fund outlines the structures we need to put in place to achieve this, along with the procedures and time scale necessary for implementation. We now have a clear vision of the way forward."

Australasia may not be omnipotent for too much longer after all.

## Football floating into growth area

WITH a dozen football clubs on the stock market — and more on the way — the City has woken up to the investment potential in Britain's best loved game. This can be shown by the fact that West Bromwich Albion, one of the portfolio of great underachievers of Midlands football, enjoyed a threefold hike in its share price on its debut on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) on Friday. Now Coventry City is set to join the rush with a £30 million float.

An analysis of the best performing shares in the United Kingdom over 1996 reveals that football is bringing in the punters. Of the top ten companies showing the biggest gains in the year, three are sport related. Of the top 20, five have sports connections.

There is no surprise that Manchester United is in there. However, its startling rise — which saw the shares increase 24 per cent to 667.5p — only left it twelfth in the league. Martin Edwards, United's chief executive, has been feted as a leader in the game of football finance, as indeed he is. You cannot fault his decision to turn down a £300 million bid for the club in May when the market value is now £425 million.

Two other football stocks outperformed United. Shares in Celtic, which are traded on the AIM, rose 488 per cent to £385 during the year as investors realised that the company is now well run by Fergus McCann, who made his name selling tights. In the first two trading days of the new year Celtic put on another ten per cent, despite the team being beaten again by Rangers. It was the market's third best performer.

Just below, at seventh came Caspian, which bought Leeds United for £16.5 million in a controversial deal in which Conrad, which later bought Sheffield United, offered £1.5 million more. At the time, this column said the deal was a steal, and so it has proven. Caspian shares have soared 338 per cent to 45p, despite Caspian's inability to score

with its ambitious deals to move into rugby league, ice hockey or basketball. What hope of a repeat performance when the chief executive, Chris Akers, describes Caspian as a "sports media" company and says his favourite team is Boca Juniors?

But the star performer has nothing to do with football directly. It is Blacks Leisure, the company best known for its camping and hiking goods shops which branched out into the general sports area with the First Sport chain, to cash in on the fantastic growth of sports-related clothing, such as replica football strips and training shoes.

Also enjoying this market were JB Sports and JD Sports, both strong performers, and Hay & Robertson, the owners of the former England strip-makers, Admiral. On the back of a deal to develop a Ruud Gullit clothing range, Hay's shares rose 201 per cent to 132.5p, the market's nineteenth best performer. But Blacks outstripped them all, scoring a fantastic 680 per cent gain to end the year at 396.5p. However, as the market often proves, shares can go down as well as up. The worst performing share of all was also in the sports arena. It is called Clubpartners, an investment company set up to develop golf clubs. Having suffered a spectacular 91.9 per cent drop in its price to a mere 2.5p during 1996, shareholders' eyes lit up at the prospect of a takeover bid for the company. Alas, an announcement that the bid would value Clubpartners in the region of a penny a share ruined every-one's new year.

JASON NISSE

مكتبة من الأصل

## RACING

# BBC must heed warning signals sounded by poll

**I**t would be easy to dismiss the debate about the respective merits and faults of Channel 4 and BBC television's coverage of racing as nothing more than a silly season story. Easy, but wrong.

When the concerns of racecourses covered by the BBC were reported in these columns a month ago they struck a chord with readers. More of you put pen to paper to express your views, compared with any other racing issue in recent months. Similarly, the response by readers of *The Sporting Life* to a detailed questionnaire about television coverage, published here on Saturday, was far larger than normal.

The conclusions make stark reading for Jonathan Martin, head of BBC Sport, and Will Wyatt, managing director of BBC television, who happens to be an avid racing enthusiast. No amount of fudging about size of audiences from PR men can obscure the facts. Three out of four people prefer Channel 4's coverage — and most of their presenters.

The public's view also has worrying implications for racing, which were touched upon, perhaps inadvertently, by Peter Scudamore last week when he wrote about his wishes for 1997. The former champion jumps jockey, who has not sparkled as a BBC pundit, hoped that "despite recent criticism, the BBC maintains its coverage of racing."

The implication some observers within the television industry drew from that remark was that the BBC might not maintain its coverage. Now, I am pretty sure Sci did not intend to convey that impression, but a combination of increased competition between racecourses more television channels and the legitimate demands of race

sponsors could raise that spectre before long — which would be a disaster for racing. Whatever the faults of the BBC, the coverage of racing by a leading terrestrial channel is crucial to the sport.

Nevertheless, the dangers signals exist. Racecourses covered by the BBC are already unhappy with the restrictions placed on sponsors of races compared with the way commercial backers of other sports are treated by the corporation's cameras. That dissatisfaction could intensify in the future as the tracks are

RICHARD EVANS



Racing  
Commentary

forced to become more competitive.

If, as I suspect, the squeeze on racing's finances increases, it will not be long before racecourses have to compete for levy funding. Nothing wrong with that but to be successful tracks will have to provide the best product to attract sponsors and satisfy customers — including those in betting shops and at home. If television coverage, regarded as old fashioned, stuffy or

rushed by viewers, hinders racecourses from providing that product, they may be forced to switch to Channel 4. Sky, the Racing Channel or the outlets offered by digital television.

Such a scenario would hardly be welcome news for the BBC, which has not fared well in the battle with ITV and satellite television for big sports events. If nothing else, the loss of racing would leave a gaping hole in its Saturday afternoon sports schedule, particularly in the winter.

All of which begs the question: what will the BBC do? My guess is nothing. I recall asking Jonathan Martin in the late 1980s what difference satellite television would make to BBC's coverage of sport. "Little or no difference, we are the BBC," he responded. Leopards do not change their spots.

What should the BBC do? The first essential is to separate the presentation of its racing coverage from editorial control. BBC desperately needs an equivalent to Andrew Franklin, the producer of Channel 4 Racing, who can introduce new ideas, experiment with new faces and is permanently looking to improve output.

In the past week alone, Channel 4 has made progress in placing mini-cameras in jockeys' helmets at the Derby, and conducting an American-style interview on horseback with the winning jockey as he returns to the winner's enclosure. What innovations have the BBC introduced in the past five years?

Having already been crossed off Messrs Wilson and Lindley's Christmas card list, I had better be careful now. Suffice to say that readers and viewers clearly believe there is a need for new talent to help present BBC racing. And you cannot be wrong, can you?

## Albaha can collect another dividend

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE fact that Woodman has sired some big achievers on North American dirt tracks may have some relevance to the chances of his son, Albaha, in the Kildare Handicap (1.45) at Southwell today.

Disappointing when trained by Robert Armstrong last season, Albaha came good with a vengeance when dispatched to Southwell with his all-weather debut. It was, admittedly, only a poor maiden, but he managed to prevail by 17 lengths. After that encouraging start, the four-year-old looks an intriguing prospect in this much stronger race.

Direct comparisons are often misleading, but Albaha concluded an uneventful turf campaign on a rating of 73. He then failed to start on his hurdles debut before the weather closed in. Loosed instead at this venue, he duly romped to victory, yet he competes here off a rating of 71. Jimmy Quinn again takes the ride and Albaha can collect another dividend.

David Nicholls, a dab hand at improving moderate horses, can demonstrate the point with Paint It Black in the Wicklow Handicap (2.45) over seven furlongs. Formerly with Richard Hannon, Paint It

Black limbered up for this when a respectable fourth over course and distance five days ago. He should be sharper for that, his first outing in nine weeks. Nicholls also saddles Sense Of Priority but this one has been inactive for five months.

The opening leg of the Tipperary Apprentices' Handicap (1.45) should fall to Broughton's Pride, who closed the turf season with three solid efforts. The mare

has a stable with few peers at this code. She could hardly have been found a more favourable opportunity and should prove hard to beat.

A fractured left knee may force Alan Mackay to miss the start of the turf season in March. Mackay was thrown from his mount, Warm Hearted, before the Manx Berryhill Claiming Stakes at Wolverhampton on Saturday.

Nicholls' Paint It Black has a stable with few peers at this code. She could hardly have been found a more favourable opportunity and should prove hard to beat.

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."

The jump fixtures at Plumpton and Kelso on Wednesday both need a considerable improvement in the weather. The Plumpton groundsman, Mark Cornford, said last night: "The course is frozen and needs 48 hours of warmer temperatures to bring the frost out."

A spokesman for Kelso said: "There are about two inches of snow on the track but there is no frost. It has got to get warmer."



Prestigious international event opens a busy new year programme

## Baricchi and Barry bid for glory

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

**I**F ANYONE is ever to topple Marcus and Karen Hilton, of Rochdale, from their pinnacle as reigning, seven-times undefeated world professional ballroom champions, it will be Luca Baricchi and Lorraine Barry, from East Molesey, in Surrey. Baricchi and his feisty Irish-born partner who has a reputation as one of the best women dancers ever, will be out to impress the judges at the first important international contest of the year, the Star Ball in London on Wednesday.

The Star Ball, organised by the Ballroom Dancers' Federation, has attracted couples from countries around the world, including 16 from Japan, two from Denmark and one from Ukraine. Its importance lies in its prestige as one of the oldest dance championships in the world, and as the new year's debut competition.

Although the Hiltons will not be dancing at the Star, this contest will nevertheless be a guide to form for the United Kingdom Open championships at Bournemouth later this month, where the top two English couples will go on to represent their country at the world championships at Blackpool in November.

The Hiltons are dancing at the UK and Baricchi, who in previous competitions has been one mark short of taking the tango from the Hiltons, is hoping to build on inroads he has also made into their foxtrot, waltz, quickstep and Viennese waltz.

But at the Star, Baricchi will be facing a strong challenge from England's third-ranked couple, Andrew Sinkinson and Adele Preston, who won the closed British championship last November. Baricchi, a tall, dark-haired, Italian, whose aloof demeanour and presence render him unmissable on the floor, is known for the quality of his tango, which has elements of the Argentinian style with swirls and plenty of "atmosphere". His foxtrot is considered particularly strong.

Barry, whose younger sister, Michelle, is also a top amateur competitor, remained serenely confident about her chances this week. They had been practising hard, she said, and had the Hiltons in their sights, although the rivalry between the two couples is friendly.

"We are pretty confident of maintaining our position. If not bettering it, if I wasn't, I might as well give up. I have got to convince myself and all those judges." The judges will be chaired by Bob Burgess of Dulwich and include Richard Gleave, Peter Eggleton and Len Armstrong, all former champions.

Sinkinson, who once danced with Barry and who, with her, was for three years undefeated world and British amateur champion, partnered up with Preston more than 12 months ago after winning the Star in 1993 with another partner, Amanda Owen. On Wednesday, the stylish Owen will be aiming for a good result with her new partner, Tony Dokman.

The Star will be the first of a series of big championships this year, including the UK, where Sinkinson and Preston will not be looking back, but instead will throw down the gauntlet to those ahead of them.

"As a new partnership it takes time to find that blend with one another," Sinkinson, a flowing dancer who is known particularly for elegance of his foxtrot and his innovative style across all five modern dances, said. "But steadily, we feel as though we have been experiencing a great deal of improvement. The other couples have had longer with each other, and have better communication."

High hopes have been expressed for him and Preston in the dance world but he remained cool. "I have been competing for 25 years, since I was eight years old, week in, week out. Therefore I don't really feel any kind of pressure. I know what I have to do."

The championship marks the competitive comeback of Norway's top couple, the stunning Kim and Cecile Rygel. Kim was put out of action by a serious knee injury sustained during the International in London last October but after surgery has been demonstrating in Japan.

The absence of the Hiltons and at least two other top professional couples from the 30 entries in the professional modern, or "standard" championship this year, leaves openings for rising challengers.



Baricchi, aloof, and his partner, Barry, said to be one of the finest women dancers ever

A FREE LUGGAGE TAG WITH EVERY ORDER

### The Times executive leather collection

Clockwise from left: Conference folder, cheque book holder, travel wallet, wallet, credit card holder and business card holder. Additional items featured in photograph not included.

**The Times** offers readers its executive leather collection, and with every order you will receive a FREE luggage tag. All items are crafted from premium quality black soft nappa hide. Conference Folder: with slot to fit an A4 pad, two business card pockets, two pen loops, black suede lining and tab-closure. 316 x 236 x 18mm.

Travel Wallet: detachable carry strap, seven credit card slots, four full length pockets for currency, passports and tickets, a mesh covered identity card pocket and three sided zip closure. 218 x 124 x 27mm.

Wallet: internal coin pocket with fastener, two banknote pockets, four credit card slots, two concealed pockets and secure press-stud closure. 120 x 95 x 16mm.

Cheque Book Holder: full length pocket and cheque book holder slot; a credit card pocket, and a drivers licence pocket. 212 x 94 x 10mm.

Credit Card Holder: six internal credit card slots and two concealed pockets. 118 x 75 x 8mm.

Business Card Holder: pocket for supply of business cards, two credit card slots, and internal lid pocket. 103 x 88 x 16mm.

Luggage Tag: window for address and gilt buckle on attachment belt. 105 x 65 x 2mm.

#### EXECUTIVE LEATHER COLLECTION

Item	Quantity	Price	Postage
Conference Folder	1	£65.00	£2.00
Travel Wallet	1	£60.00	£2.00
Wallet	1	£52.00	£2.00
Cheque Book Holder	1	£25.00	£2.00
Credit Card Holder	1	£19.00	£2.00
Business Card Holder	1	£19.00	£2.00
Luggage Tag	1	£4.99	FREE

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... payable to: **The Times** FT602. Prices include postage and packing.

Value ..... No .....

Please write name and address on back of all cheques

Or debit my Access/ Visa card no. £ .....

Print Name ..... Exp. Date .....

Signature .....

Send coupon and remittance to: **The Times Executive Leather Collection** FT602, PO Box 333, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7ZD

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Offer available in the UK only, if dissatisfied return within 7 days for a full refund.

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from **The Times** or companies approved by us.

FOR TELEPHONE ORDERS PLEASE CALL: 01525 851945 (24 HRS)

## RFU advancing proposals for structural change

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union has not been seen in the best of lights during its struggle to cope with the change from an amateur to an open game. Division and discord have choked the last year yet behind the public and sometimes unloved, faced of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), life goes on.

There are more than 2,000 clubs, more than 3,000 schools affiliated to the RFU and in the course of nearly two years, study an RFU working party on youth rugby came across a tale to set against the positioning of many at the senior end of the game.

They interviewed a boy from a broken home who discovered mini-rugby at school; the game became a natural outlet, his skills developed and even though he later attended a large, comprehensive school where rugby was not played, he represented both his county and his country.

Though he dropped out for a period, his interest was rekindled during staff-form education and he visited New Zealand with an England 18-group tour party where he roomed with a boy from a public school. "The motivation he derived prompted him to take A levels externally and he is now at university," Robert Horner, who chaired the working party, said.

"He freely admits that, had it not been for rugby, he might have found his way to jail instead." The young man's message to the working party was simple: "There are lots of guys like me out there, go and get them." It is a message the RFU, like so many missionaries, is anxious to put across but the thrust of the working party's findings was of a game in sore need of rationalisation at junior level.

In particular, they found that the regime of colts rugby put in place a generation ago for teenagers who had left full-time education is no longer appropriate. Clubs and schools have become rivals for the same players, more of whom remain at school rather than seeking jobs at 16 as they once did. This has provoked some thorny debate, various colts bodies insisting that no modification is required.

The RFU, democratic to a fault, circulated revisions to their original recommendations and each of the 27 constituent bodies, the schools." The RFU's answer is an administrative restructuring of the junior game, part-funded by the National Lottery and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, so that there will be a clear path for promising young players to follow.

The target will be a new level of England rugby; an under-19 XV (equivalent teams already exist in the other home unions and on the Continent) into which both national schools and national youth teams will feed — rather than, as happens now, England 18-group schoolboys funneling into the national colts teams.

The RFU seek a regimen of those involved in mini- and midi-rugby (from seven years old and upwards), greater support for the Rugby Football Union for Women and greater liaison between clubs and schools.

This is the other side of the RFU's quest for more money which has brought down upon their heads the wrath of their colleagues in Scotland, Ireland and Wales. But the Amiens accord in development is one which has aroused the admiration of other sporting bodies and which, for the good of the game at large, they must sustain.



### KENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hebden leads

With one round to go in the Hastings Premier tournament, the UK's strongest international chess competition, the lead has been seized in dramatic fashion by grandmaster Mark Hebden, who toppled the previous frontrunner, grandmaster John Nunn, in the eighth round. Hebden gradually outplayed Nunn, won a pawn and forced resignation on the 38th move.

White: Mark Hebden  
Black: John Nunn  
Hastings, January 1997

Queen's Pawn Opening

1 d4 Nf6

2 Nf3 g6

3 c4 Bg7

4 Bf4 e5

5 e3 Nc6

6 Be2 O-O

7 Nc3 Bf5

8 O-O d5

9 Nf1 Bb7

10 Nc5 Qd7

11 Nc4 Qe6

12 c3 Nf7

13 b4 Nc6

14 Qc2 Bb6

15 Bb6 Rf8

16 Qd3 Rf5

17 Qd2 Rf6

18 Qd3 Rf5

19 Bf1 Rf6

20 Bf1 Rf5

21 Rf1 Rf6

22 Rf1 Rf5

23 Rf1 Rf6

24 Rf1 Rf5

25 Rf1 Rf6

26 Rf1 Rf5

27 Rf1 Rf6

28 Rf1 Rf5

29 Rf1 Rf6

30 Rf1 Rf5

31 Rf1 Rf6

32 Rf1 Rf5

33 Rf1 Rf6

34 Rf1 Rf5

35 Rf1 Rf6

36 Rf1 Rf5

37 Rf1 Rf6

38 Rf1 Rf5

39 Rf1 Rf6

40 Rf1 Rf5

41 Rf1 Rf6

42 Rf1 Rf5

43 Rf1 Rf6

44 Rf1 Rf5

45 Rf1 Rf6

46 Rf1 Rf5

47 Rf1 Rf6

48 Rf1 Rf5

49 Rf1 Rf6

50 Rf1 Rf5

51 Rf1 Rf6

52 Rf1 Rf5

53 Rf1 Rf6

54 Rf1 Rf5

55 Rf1 Rf6

56 Rf1 Rf5

57 Rf1 Rf6

58 Rf1 Rf5

59 Rf1 Rf6

60 Rf1 Rf5

61 Rf1 Rf6

62 Rf1 Rf5

63 Rf1 Rf6

64 Rf1 Rf5

65 Rf1 Rf6

66 Rf1 Rf5

</

ing  
for  
lange.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

# ENJOY 6 FREE DAYS AT A HEALTH CLUB

**Plus annual  
memberships worth  
£40,000 to be won**

To coincide with the launch of our Discovery Diet Guide, which starts today on pages 10 to 13, *The Times* has teamed up with LivingWell and other leading health clubs to offer you up to six free visits to any of the 110 participating clubs listed right.

The offer allows you to use the same facilities at the health clubs as those enjoyed by full members. It includes workouts in the gym, use of the sauna and steam room, various aerobics classes or a swim in the pool.

In addition to sampling a health club free for up to six days, readers who take up this offer will be entered into a prize draw offering the chance to win an annual health club membership to your chosen club.

There is £40,000 of memberships to be won.

To take up this offer simply present the voucher, below right, at your chosen health club when you turn up for your pre-booked visit. By collecting all six vouchers appearing this week you can enjoy six free visits.

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The offer is valid until February 28, 1997.
2. Your free visit(s) must be booked in advance by telephone quoting *The Times* offer 3.
3. The printed voucher(s) must be presented to the club when you make your visit(s).
4. Each voucher is only valid for one free visit.
5. A maximum of six free visits are allowed per reader.
6. No photocopies will be accepted.
7. The offer is subject to availability.
8. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.
9. There may be additional charges if you wish to book beauty treatments.
10. It is advisable to confirm what facilities are included in the offer at the time of booking.



#### GREATER LONDON

LONDON W1, LivingWell, 0171-636 1000; LivingWell, 0171-829 6974; The Fitness Exchange, 0171-438 9266 LONDON W2, Carlton, 0171-268 1985 LONDON E14, Arena Racquet & Sports, 0171-515 8940 LONDON SW1, LivingWell, 0171-233 3579 LONDON NW6, LivingWell, 0171-372 3232 LONDON NW8, The Circle, 0171-722 1234 LONDON SE1, Cottons, 0171-403 1171 LONDON SE26, Springdale Spa, 0181-778 9818 CROYDON, LivingWell, 0181-867 4444 ILFORD, Apples, 0181-518 0606 NORTHOLT, Dragons, 0181-841 5611 WATFORD, Sebastian Coe, 0181-420 5467 WEMBLEY, LivingWell, 0181-795 4118

#### SOUTH EAST

ARUNDEL, LivingWell, 01243 554693 BASINGSTOKE, LivingWell, 0800 136836 BASILDON, Club Kingswood, 01289 522954 COBHAM, LivingWell, 0800 136836 COPTHORNE, Copthorne The Club, 01342 716278 COPTHORNE, Effingham Park, 01342 714994 CRAWLEY, Sebastian Coe, 01293 561186 CAMBERLEY, Fitness First, 01276 668699 DARTFORD, LivingWell, 01322 290210 EAST GRINSTEAD, Sebastian Coe, 01342 410986 FARNHAM, Sebastian Coe, 01252 782345 GATWICK, LivingWell, 01293 527261 MAIDSTONE, LivingWell, 01622 734672; Marriott Tudor Park, 01622 734334; Sebastian Coe, 01622 631163 MALDON, Five Lakes Hotel Golf & Country, 01621 668668 MILTON KEYNES CENTRAL, LivingWell, 01908 688286 MILTON KEYNES, LivingWell, 01908 240422 NEWBURY, LivingWell, 0800 136836; LivingWell, 01935 247020; Sebastian Coe, 01488 658100 OLD WOKING, Chris Lane, 01483 722113 READING, Club Motivation, 01734 259988 ST ALBANS, Batchwood Golf & Tennis Centre, 01727 844250 SOUTHEND ON SEA, Fitness First, 01702 390700 SLOUGH, Copthorne, 01753 516222 WATFORD, LivingWell, 01923 210247 WHITHAM, Sebastian Coe, 01376 516989 WOKINGHAM, LivingWell, 01734 785896

#### SOUTH WEST

BATH, LivingWell, 0800 136836 BOURNEMOUTH, Queens Park Health Club, 01202 394900; LivingWell, 01202 293222 BRISTOL, LivingWell, 01454 202506; LivingWell, 0800 136836 CHELTENHAM, Harpers, 01242 257895 DIDCOT, Harpers, 01235 619888 GLOUCESTER, Sebastian Coe, 01452 415242; Marriott Tewkesbury Park, 01684 297562 PORTSMOUTH, LivingWell, 0800 136836 SALISBURY, Harpers, 01722 339966 SOUTHAMPTON, LivingWell, 01703 766926 SWINDON, LivingWell, 01793 410337; Village, 01793 827777 WINCHESTER, Club Motivation, 01962 709988

#### MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA

BIRMINGHAM, LivingWell, 0121-236 7789; Fitness First, 0121-434 3737 BROMSGROVE, LivingWell, 0121-445 5125 CAMBRIDGE, Club Motivation, 01223 259988 CORBY, LivingWell, 01536 264568

COVENTRY, LivingWell, 01203 841019; Fitness First, 01203 833444

DAVENTRY, Harpers, 01327 871144 DUDLEY, Copthorne, 01384 482882 LEICESTER, LivingWell, 01162 814112 LOCKINGTON, LivingWell, 01509 674166 MERIDEN, Marriott Forest of Arden, 01676 526107 MORLEY, Marriott Breadsall Priory, 01332 836002 NORTHAMPTON, Fitness First, 01604 751170; LivingWell, 01804 702604 NORWICH, LivingWell, 01603 488470 RUSHDEN, Harpers, 01933 411635 STOKE-ON-TRENT, LivingWell, 01782 266717 SUTTON COLDFIELD, Sebastian Coe, 01213 131317 WARWICK, LivingWell, 01926 493700

#### NORTH EAST

GARFORTH, LivingWell, 0113-287 8444 GRIMSBY, Millfields, 01472 356068 HUDDERSFIELD LivingWell, 0800 136836 HARTLEPOOL, Fitness First, 01429 232222 HULL Club Tamarisk, 01482 656488 LEEDS, LivingWell, 0113-244 5443; Sebastian Coe, 0113-287 5219; Marriott Leeds, 0113-236 8405 NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, LivingWell, 0191-230 2717; Copthorne, 0191-222 0333

#### NORTH WEST

BOLTON, Club Motivation, 01204 879988; Sebastian Coe, 01942 814973 CHESTER, Sebastian Coe, 01244 335135 HIGHER DISLEY, LivingWell, 01663 768931 LIVERPOOL, Women's World (Ladies Only), 0151-521 8151 MANCHESTER, LivingWell, 0161-839 0806; Club Motivation, 01625 889988; Sebastian Coe, 0161-236 2674

#### SCOTLAND

ABERDEEN, LivingWell, 01224 209867 AYR, Sebastian Coe, 01292 289331 DUNBLANE, LivingWell, 01786 821230 DUNDEE, LivingWell, 01382 226505 DUNKELD, LivingWell, 01350 727130 EAST KILBRIDE, LivingWell, 01355 238588 EDINBURGH, Club Motivation, 0131 535 9988 GLASGOW, LivingWell, 0141 248 9788; LivingWell, 0141 204 5512; Club Motivation, 0141 306 9988 GOURLACK, LivingWell, 01475 635588 INVERNESS, Sebastian Coe, 01463 235181 LIVINGSTON, LivingWell, 0800 136836

#### WALES

CARDIFF, Club Motivation, 01222 589988; Copthorne, 01222 599100 NEWPORT, LivingWell, 0800 136636; LivingWell, 01633 413840 SWANSEA, LivingWell, 0800 136636

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

LONDONDERRY, X Stress 01504 269298

**LivingWell**  
HEALTH CLUBS

#### THE TIMES FREE HEALTH CLUB DAY MEMBERSHIP VOUCHER AND PRIZE DRAW ENTRY FORM

This voucher entitles the bearer to a free day's membership at one of the health clubs listed in *The Times* on January 6 and 11, 1997. This voucher also acts as a prize draw entry coupon for the chance to win a free membership for a year to the winner's chosen health club. There are annual memberships worth a total of £40,000 to be won. The offer is valid until Friday February 28, 1997. This date is also the closing date for entry to the prize draw.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 The offer is subject to availability. 2 Readers must book their visits in advance by telephone and state that they are using *The Times* offer. 3 This voucher must be presented when you turn up on the day. 4 The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 5 There will be additional charges for therapies. Please check what is included in the offer at the time of booking.

Title ..... Initials ..... Surname .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Day Tel .....

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations selected by *The Times* please tick

CHANGING TIMES







Happy times for Gerald Levin, second right, with Ted Turner, second left, at a CNN launch last month, but some analysts think his job is at risk

## Blood flows in Tinseltown massacre of studio moguls

**Richard Thomson relates a real-life saga of money, power and betrayal**

The body count was higher than in a Stallone movie and the plot more tortuous than a spy thriller. Real life in Hollywood's boardrooms over the past 12 months has put most of Tinseltown's fictional storylines to shame with money, power and betrayal emerging as the dominant themes.

As films grow ever more expensive — \$80-\$100 million or more is the going cost of a blockbuster — and as film companies become conglomerates, the demands on top executives seem to be more than many can bear. To keep their jobs they have to be expert businessmen, creative artists, and good corporate greasy-pole climbers in what is, at best, a cut-throat environment.

The downfall of Michael Ovitz neatly illustrates the point. Once known as the most powerful man in Hollywood as head of the Creative Artists Agency and general deal broker, he failed completely to fit into the corporate culture of Walt Disney where he went as president only 14 months ago.

His old job depended on a flair for schmoozing, on projecting a certain style, and knowing all the right people. At Disney he upset powerful colleagues by commanding an office supposedly the size of a football pitch and keeping limousines waiting outside just in case he needed them. This behaviour did not fit his new role. Under the autocratic control of its chairman, Michael Eisner, Disney has become an entertainment monolith over the past ten years. It is Big Business — it's corporate style is closer to IBM or Exxon than the small creative venture that Disney was a few years ago. Within months of Mr Ovitz's arrival his "best friend", Mr Eisner, realised that he was not masking the grade as a Disney corporate man and began ruthlessly levering him out. Although Mr Ovitz leaves with a payoff said to be around \$90 million, he achieved little and his job prospects now appear much less rosy.

One place he will probably not be going is Sony's US entertainment arm, where the bloodletting this year was spectacular as the Japanese finally took a machete to their disastrous investment in Columbia TriStar, the film studios. By giving bad management free rein for years, Sony has lost around \$5 billion in the studio and has produced an impressive number of box office flops. *Cable Guy* (for which Jim Carey was paid \$20 million), *The Fan* (with Robert de Niro) and *Multiplicity* all bombed expensively in 1996, and Nobuyuki Idei, Sony's president, finally decided to clean house.

During the summer the heads of Columbia and TriStar, as well as top creative and marketing executives and Michael Schulhoff, chairman of Sony Entertainment in the US, lost their

jobs. The last to go was Alan Levine, head of Sony's Hollywood venture, to be replaced by John Calley, a film veteran with a string of hits to his name. The big question in Tinseltown now is whether Sony will float or sell its studios. It could take several years to get them back into financial shape but Mr Idei may get rid of them sooner.

Meanwhile, Time Warner struggled to recover from the firing of three successive heads of its music division in 1995, followed by the management disruption of merging with Turner Broadcasting System this year. It is another conglomerate struggling to pull its disparate parts together and impress a distinctly sceptical stock market that it knows where it is going. Many analysts believe Gerald Levin, its chairman, may be the next to go.



Michael Eisner, left, and Michael Ovitz at the Disney studios

Another high-profile victim was Frank Biondi, head of Viacom. The issue again was corporate performance, with the volatile Sumner Redstone, who controls Viacom, claiming Mr Biondi did not have the drive to revive the company's flagging profits. The sacking shocked the media industry since the two men were thought to be close friends. But Mr Biondi walked away with a \$20 million payoff and took the top job at MCA, the studio owned by Seagram, for a reported salary of \$75 million over five years.

Part of the problem in Hollywood is the intense competition for audiences and the glut of new films that regularly flood the cinemas at certain times of the year. An expensive film that flops or simply underperforms expectations can deliver a staggering blow to a studio's finances, putting its executives under intense pressure. Several studios have recently vowed to reduce their production and cut the costs of filmmaking but none has so far lived up to its words.

This is the backdrop to the launch of DreamWorks, the company started by Steven Spielberg, David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg (Bill Gates is also involved as an investor). To Hollywood's surprise, DreamWorks has produced very little except a few television shows. Observers say that its failure to make a splash with a big film or an animation may mean that it is faltering in the highly competitive movie market. If it is, it may mean the fall of three more stars of the Hollywood business firmament.

After the chaos of 1996 it might be reasonable to expect the next 12 months to be less fraught for Hollywood's bosses. Yet the financial problems that they face are not going to vanish and it is never wise to underestimate Hollywood's ability to come up with unexpected plot twists. The only thing that seems certain is that those who lose their jobs will still end up as multimillionaires.

The flexible nature of the Welsh workforce was noted by 50 of the Principality's top inward investors in a survey by Coopers & Lybrand. Nine out of ten said their workforce beat requirements for productivity and willingness to train. Tony said: "We are the most flexible, productive, and profitable site in Europe."

That is why Sony, like the rest of the Principality's population, now lives in a designated development area, compared with a third in 1992. Fortunately grants, though important, are not the only issue for relocating companies. Almedica, an American clinical testing equipment manufacturer, chose Didsbury, North Wales, in preference to another UK region that could give financial assistance.

"Companies that expand here show their commitment to Wales," says James Turner, the Welsh Development Agency's head of inward investment. "And they demonstrate to new investors that Wales is a successful place in which to operate. They are an important endorsement for us."

Mr Turner believes that the £1.7 billion investment planned by Lucky Goldstar (LG) is the best advert Wales will receive over the next 10 years. He claims that the

## Foreign legion marches in to slay dragons of Welsh economy

**Iola Smith on how Wales bucked trend of decline in manufacturing**

Inward investment has revived the Welsh economy. Thirteen years ago, when the Principality seriously began to woo foreign firms in a bid to diversify away from declining heavy industries, 12.8 per cent of the workforce was unemployed, against a UK average of 10.1 per cent. Today, unemployment in Wales is down to 7.5 per cent, against a 6.9 per cent national average.

Some areas, such as Merthyr — where 5,000 people applied for 300 jobs at Wales' first Korean-owned company, Halls — prove that much remains to be done. But Wales has managed to cut unemployment by 35 per cent since 1983 amid seemingly unhelpful local conditions.

That is largely because of the 414 overseas-owned plants that employ 157,000 people, a third of the manufacturing workforce. These companies employ more people than the 152,700 who lacked jobs in 1993.

Last year, according to William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, "we won over 130 projects, promising more than 15,000 jobs". But foreign firms have done more than just create jobs. They have invested more than £10.2 billion in capital projects. Professor Garel Rhys, of Cardiff Business School, said: "They have revitalised Welsh manufacturing industry. Wales is bucking the trend of decline in manufacturing."

The sector has grown by an eighth since 1990, and the two main areas of development, automotive and automotive components, have experienced huge expansion. Some 200 automotive components producers employ some 27,000 people, and create annual sales of £1.7 billion.

This growth, Professor Rhys believes, is because of Wales' low unit labour costs. "That does not mean low wages," he insists. "Wages paid by inward investors tend to be higher than those paid by indigenous businesses. But as our workforce has high productivity, unit labour costs are low."

The flexible nature of the Welsh workforce was noted by 50 of the Principality's top inward investors in a survey by Coopers & Lybrand. Nine out of ten said their workforce beat requirements for productivity and willingness to train. Tony said: "We are the most flexible, productive, and profitable site in Europe."

That is why Sony, like the rest of the Principality's population, now lives in a designated development area, compared with a third in 1992. Fortunately grants, though important, are not the only issue for relocating companies. Almedica, an American clinical testing equipment manufacturer, chose Didsbury, North Wales, in preference to another UK region that could give financial assistance.

"Companies that expand here show their commitment to Wales," says James Turner, the Welsh Development Agency's head of inward investment. "And they demonstrate to new investors that Wales is a successful place in which to operate. They are an important endorsement for us."

Mr Turner believes that the £1.7 billion investment planned by Lucky Goldstar (LG) is the best advert Wales will receive over the next 10 years. He claims that the

management training programme for businesses introducing Japanese ideas on shop-floor efficiency, communications and relationships with suppliers. It includes factory visits and problem-solving workshops for companies seeking efficiency gains.

The success of inward investment in south Wales is causing some concern that the economy there could overheat. "But that is not a problem at present," says Mr Turner. "Together with a Tec and Imperial College, which is joint owner of LG's site, we are establishing a training centre in semi-conductor electronics to ensure that skills shortages will not become a problem."

There has been criticism from communities in Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire and Heads Of The Valleys that they have been passed over by the foreign boom. Although location is largely up to companies, some are beginning to look at less favoured areas. Last week Faure, the French car seat manufacturer, announced a £12 million plan to establish a factory and create 300 jobs in the unemployment black spot of Tredegar.

Cell Centres are planned for the rural north and west in the hope that they can emulate the success of rural Mid Wales in attracting foreign companies. John Taylor, chief executive of the Development Board for Rural Wales, says: "Our European, Japanese and North American-owned firms are helping us diversify the rural economy. And the wages they pay are on a par with the UK average."

Manufacturing now employs a tenth of the rural workforce, as many as in 1993.

Undoubtedly, 175 North American, 45 continental, 51 Japanese and 23 Asian and Australian operations have changed the face of the Welsh economy in 13 years. But maintaining momentum is hard, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when Wales routinely attracted a fifth of the UK's inward investment projects, it was a big player in a less competitive market.

In 1985 the WDA was one of only three such bodies seeking business in Tokyo. Europe now has 650 agencies, twice as many as five years ago, all competing for projects.

After redrawing the development area map in 1993, only a seventh of the Principality's population now lives in a designated development area, compared with a third in 1992. Fortunately grants, though important, are not the only issue for relocating companies. Almedica, an American clinical testing equipment manufacturer, chose Didsbury, North Wales, in preference to another UK region that could give financial assistance.

The WDA is keen to dismiss the idea that the regions are trying to outbid each other to attract foreign companies.

"Inward investment is now industrial policy," says Professor Rhys. "If a project does not come to Wales, or Scotland, or wherever, it does not come to the UK." Everyone loses because, as Professor Rhys points out, "inward investment's greatest success is in rebuilding Britain's industrial base".

Friend.  
Ally.  
Confidante.

It's even been called  
a trade paper.

## Racial equality 'will help UK to compete'

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS leaders are joining the Government in a new initiative on racial equality — and they will insist jointly that greater equality will give British companies a competitive advantage in world markets.

Gillian Shepherd, Employment and Education Secretary, will join Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, in announcing the initiative, together with Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality. Building on a long-term campaign by the CRE, they will set out the business case for racial equality in employment,

ment, including how best to develop equality policies on race for the millennium and beyond.

At a conference this month, ministers and business leaders will accept that there is some way to go before members of ethnic minorities are fully represented at every level across all sectors of business.

The Government will emphasise that Britain's ethnic minorities form a "significant and increasing" proportion of the UK's working population, as well as representing a growing and important consumer market that

employers cannot afford to ignore. Mrs Shepherd said: "We will be putting the case to business leaders that racial equality of opportunity in employment is central to good business and management practice, not simply because it is fair but also because it makes good business sense... The business necessity for race equality in employment is clear."

Mr Ouseley said: "Companies are beginning to recognise benefits of racial equality at work, and the equal opportunity policies which are a key to achieving diversity."

Employers cannot afford to ignore. Mrs Shepherd said:

"We will be putting the case to business leaders that racial equality of opportunity in employment is central to good business and management practice, not simply because it is fair but also because it makes good business sense... The business necessity for race equality in employment is clear."

Mr Ouseley said:

"Companies are beginning to recognise benefits of racial equality at work, and the equal opportunity policies which are a key to achieving diversity."

Employers cannot afford to ignore. Mrs Shepherd said:

"We will be putting the case to business leaders that racial equality of opportunity in employment is central to good business and management practice, not simply because it is fair but also because it makes good business sense... The business necessity for race equality in employment is clear."

Employers cannot afford to ignore. Mrs Shepherd said:

"We will be putting the case to business leaders that racial equality of opportunity in employment is central to good business and management practice, not simply because it is fair but also because it makes good business sense... The business necessity for race equality in employment is clear."

Because there will always be politics. Because there will always be cutbacks. Because teachers, heads and children have but one chance to do their best. don't miss your copy of The TES every Friday.

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR CURRICULUM.

**TES**

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

EVERY FRIDAY £1

TOURIST RATES		CHANGE ON WEEK		THE POUND	
Bank Buys	Bank Sales				
Australia \$ 2.23	2.07				
Austria Sch. 19.32	17.82				
Belgium Fr. 56.80	52.30				
Canada \$ 2.426	2.266				
Cyprus Cyp. 0.819	0.764				
Denmark Kr. 10.53	9.73				
Finnland Mark. 8.38	7.73				
France Fr. 9.16	8.54				
Germany Dm. 2.76	2.55				
Greece Dr. 430	405				
Hong Kong \$ 13.63	12.58				
Iceland 120	100				
Ireland Pt. 1.06	0.98				
Israel Shk. 5.76	5.11				
Italy Lira. 2573	2618				
Japan Yen 209.30	193.30				
Malta 0.646	0.591				
Netherlands Gld. 3.073	2.843				
New Zealand \$ 2.53	2.31				
Norway Kr. 11.34	10.54				
Portugal Esc. 273.00	254.00				
S Africa Rd. 8.51	7.71				
Spain Pta. 226.50	218.50				
Sweden Kr. 12.26	11.46				
Switzerland Fr. 2.40	2.22				
Turkey Lira. 192,200	180,000				
USA \$ 1.785	1.658				

Rates for small denominations bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank.

STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 share	2811.8 (+16.0)
FTSE 100	4089.5 (-1.5)
New York Dow Jones	6544.09 (-16.8)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge	Closed

Rates for small denominations





Bishko: niche to "design-led" retailer



Conran: retailer turned restaurateur



Davies: made George his next venture



Ratner: fitness and fluency in French

## Entrepreneurs who survived the decade of boom and bust

**Clare Stewart on the fate and fortunes of those who shaped the business world of the 1980s**

**O**ne way of making Roy Bishko, chairman of Tie Rack, very cross is to call him a niche retailer. Big mistake and very 1980s. Any journalist lax enough to use that term when describing the silk shirts to scarves and ties chain will receive by return the standard letter pointing out the error of their ways.

Niche retailing is a concept that has unfortunate associations with the boom and bust of retailing in the 1980s. Think of the spectacular rise and fall of Sock Shop. Think of Mrs Field's, whose ambitious plans for cookie shops crumbled away.

Tie Rack, says Mr Bishko, is "a design-led retail accessory business". It is also that rarer commodity: a retail business that survived the transition from 1980s boom to 1990s recession, despite a patch around 1990 when it nearly came undone as a result of expansion into the US.

With retailers now making more optimistic noises than for some time, it is worth looking around to see just how many of Mr Bishko's retail contemporaries are still battling it out on the shop floor. Some, it seems, have never gone away. Lord Harris, the rugs-to-riches carpet magnate built up Harris Queensway in the 1980s and sold out in 1988, two years before the group, as Lowndes Queensway, went into receivership.

Within months, Lord Harris was back in business with Carpetright, the venture that was floated in 1993 and is now joint market leader with Allied Carpets.

Sock Shop was founded in 1982 by Sophie Mirman, then 27. By 1986 she and her husband, Richard Ross, had a stake worth £50 million. By 1990, the company was in administrative receivership. Several owners later, Sock Shop is once again expanding in the UK and overseas, this time under the control of Jumper, the retail group that bought the chain in June from Stephen Hinchliffe's collapsed Fadia group.

And Sophie Mirman? She is running two children's shops in London, Trotters in the King's Road and in the High Street, Kensington. The shops sell shoes, clothing and toys for children aged up to ten as well as offering hairdressing.

Next autumn, a mail order service will be launched but further retail expansion is not planned. "I had a big chauvin before and have no intention of having one again," she says. "I am very happy running small shops." While Trotters is "trading extremely well", she is not convinced that a retail boom is looming.

"The retail climate is very cautious although the Christmas figures appear to be good," she says. Consumers remain wary, and she adds: "Retailing patterns have changed and consumers are now far more



Sophie Mirman is happy to trade on a smaller scale at the children's shops she runs in London

discerning. A customer now has to have a good reason to go into a shop and buy."

Gerald Ratner, former head of the jewellery retailer, takes a more optimistic view of recovery, although he is not rushing back into the high street. At present, his two key preoccupations are personal fitness and learning French. The latter is to assist with his role as a consultant to France's largest retail jeweller, while personal fitness links to the planned Easter launch of The Workshop, which aims to be the first of a chain of state-of-the-art fitness centres.

Mr Ratner is also consultant to the long-planned and long-delayed retail development at Tobacco Dock in east London. Factory shops and a multi-screen cinema are now scheduled to open some time in 1997-98. Mr Ratner says: "Things are definitely on a recovery. It has been a long cycle and people have been predicting it for some time. It is a good time to be going into the gym business as people are spending money."

Mr Ashcroft has just completed a PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University on the balance of payments in the 1980s, fulfilling a long-held ambition. He has no immediate plans but says that there are "lots of things I would like to do in business or academic life". Since leaving Coloroll he has been involved in a number of smaller companies, including the unfortunately named Survival Aids, an outdoor equipment and mountaineering business that went under, as well as publishing his quarterly Economic Picture Book.

Mr Ashcroft is not convinced that retailing has recovered its former momentum. "It is still a pale shadow of the late 1980s and I don't expect to see a full-scale consumer boom."

Looking back, and had he known then what he knows now about economics, would he have spotted the warning signs? "We had all the information, but in the 1980s people were taken unaware by events and the timing. We knew a slowdown was coming but not when."

Among fashion retailers in the 1980s, Sir Ralph Halpern cut a dash when both his business success and private life hit the headlines. He played a lead role in transforming Burton from a grey menswear chain into a retail group that included Top Shop and Dorothy Perkins, and which, in 1985, snapped up Debenhams.

Since leaving Burton with a £2 million payoff in 1990, Sir Ralph has kept a much lower profile, with the exception of jobs such as chairman of the British Fashion Council, helping to promote leading names in design and retail. Sir Ralph's daughter, and interest rates have an impact on consumer spending."

Learning has also been a preoccupation of John Ashcroft, former head of the Coloroll wallpaper to carpets group. Mr Ashcroft steered Coloroll to stock market stardom but stood down as chairman shortly before the group collapsed in 1990 with debts of £350 million.

In May, he will open a food market and restaurant complex in the Kings Road, west London, while later in the year a new site at No 1 Poultry, in the City, will be launched.

Sir Terence bought back the Conran Shop in 1990 and has since taken the concept to Paris and Japan.

A second London site is due to open in Marylebone High Street this year, with further openings planned for Glasgow and Manhattan.

The bursting of the 1980s retail bubble took its toll of the high street credibility of many a high-flyer, although names such as Next, Laura Ashley and Burton endured and prosper under new management. But as a sign of quite how much things have changed, Mr Ashcroft recalls how when he first planned his PhD thesis in 1989 his proposed topic was rejected as rather irrelevant.

The daring proposition? "That interest rates have an impact on consumer spending."

### Pantling delves into the ex files

EX-HUSBANDS have their uses. Ask Jennifer Pantling, introduced to one of the directors at Granville & Co by her first husband Nigel Pantling, a director at Hambros Bank.

A month after her departure from Adam & Partners, Pantling has been appointed a director of the merchant banking division of Granville Holdings. Recalling her time in the late Eighties as one of the first female directors at Smith New Court, where she contributed to the rapid growth of the corporate finance team, Pantling says she wants to do the same at Granville.

Meanwhile, Pantling is off to Paris on Eurostar. And, yes, she collected her tokens in *The Times*.

### THE TIMES CITY DIARY

#### Festive fright

FEAR abounded for the future of the European arm of Wasserstein Perella, the US merchant banker, after an eagle-eyed financier noticed that a company named Wasserstein Perella Management Services was placed in liquidation just before Christmas.

However, Howard Covington, formerly of BZW and now head of Wasserstein's London arm, was able to put minds at rest. "It was a subsidiary we hadn't found for the same at Granville.

Meanwhile, Pantling is off to Paris on Eurostar. And, yes, she collected her tokens in *The Times*.

four years," he tells me, adding that 1996 was, in fact, a cracking year.

#### Hacked off

MEMO of the month comes from Mark Harden, City Editor of the *Denver Post*. "To staff, I can't believe I'm writing a note like this, not being a fifth-form teacher, but here goes: I'd like the rubber band wars to stop. And the throwing of pencils, paper wads and fruit. I've had complaints about this from your colleagues. I think it's reasonable."

able to expect that you can sit at your desk and not be bombarded with flying objects?" No such memo at *The Times*.

A POLITICAL cocktail is being mixed at the Savoy Hotel. Peter Dorelli, head barman, is taking orders for Eurofile and *Europhile* cocktails. La Ina sherry, Campari, dry orange Curaçao, Crème de Cassis, and passion fruit flavoured Raben Horst, are among the former's cosmopolitan ingredients. London Gin, Bronte

from Yorkshire, and apple juice from Suffolk, make up the latter.

#### Double delight

A DOUBLE whammy for globe-trotting Weatheralls. Percy Weatherall, managing director of Hongkong Land, and his wife, Clara, are celebrating the birth of their second child, delivered last Thursday (probably the last of the Keswick clan to be born in Hong Kong before China reclaims control in July). Meanwhile, brother Ben

Weatherall, assistant director of Hambros Bank in Australia and a cousin of chairman Sir Chips Keswick, received a memorable present on Christmas Day — a baby daughter, with the rather eccentric name of Barney Rose.

#### Hair today...

MEDIA pundit Justin Urquhart Stewart is sporting a very short fringe. After a fiery encounter with the family Christmas pudding, the managing director of Barclays Stockbrokers will perhaps be a little less generous when it comes to pouring the brandy in future. Surely he got some sympathy from his family? "No," he says, "everyone was in too much of an alcoholic stupor to even notice."

**MORAG PRESTON**

#### CHOICE

## Lucky 13 at the Proms

From the Proms. Radio 3, 2.00pm.

It was, I recall, Friday the 13th. I also remember crossing my fingers. Would the fickle finger of fate point in Sir Georg Solti's direction, and the whole hand strike him down with an illness that would keep him away from the conductor's rostrum at the Royal Albert Hall? No. He entered to huge cheers and a barrage of foot stamping and, at the conclusion of Beethoven's Choral Symphony, the applause went on for so long that he held up both hands in a gesture of exhausted delight and said: "Enough! Please go home!" That unforgettable performance, and the nine chorals works by Bruckner that preceded it, conducted by Jane Glover, launch Radio 3's series of 1996 Prom recordings.

**God's Country: The Love Letters of Ragie Patel.** Radio 4, 2.00pm. Lee Hall has written what is probably the most densely interrogative play you will hear this year. I estimate that there is roughly a question every other minute. They come from 12-year-old Ragie, splendidly played by Kulwant Singh Bharia, a Tyneside Indian and total innocent who deludes himself into thinking he might be a god and that his 16-year-old sum (Nina Wadia) wants to marry him. The proliferation of questions and their answers make for a thoroughly entertaining comedy which ends, unexpectedly, in tragedy. The interpolated songs from the musical *South Pacific* do not always suit the action.

#### RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Kevin Greening 12.30 Mark Whalen 2.00pm Nicky G覺得 3.00pm Maria Goodwin includes Chart Hour 7.30 Evening Session 8.00 John Peel's Classic Radio 1 Sessions. Includes the Bob Radley and Son Youth 10.00 Stuart Macrìne and Son Youth 12.00 Stuart Macrìne and Son Youth 14.00 Clive Warren

2.00pm Sports roundup 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Gérard Depardieu 4.15 John Peel 4.30 World Business Report 4.45 Anything Goes 8.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 BBC 1 10.45 On the Move 11.30 Omnibus 12.00pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Andy Kershaw 2.05 Cuplock 2.30 John Peel 3.00 Sports roundup 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Gérard Depardieu 4.15 John Peel 4.30 World Business Report 4.45 Sports roundup 6.30 Quince 1.00pm 7.30 Multitrack 8.00 Sports Report 8.30 Humphrey Littleton 10.00 No Minor Chords: André Previn reads from his autobiography (24) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00pm Sue McGehee 3.00 Steve Macdonald

#### RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy, includes 9.15 Peas for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.00 Debbie Thomas 5.00 BBC 1 5.30 Sports 5.45 John Durn 7.00 Malcolm Wright at the Movies 7.30 Malcolm Leycock 8.00 Big Band Special 8.00 Humphrey Littleton 10.00 No Minor Chords: André Previn reads from his autobiography (24) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00pm Sue McGehee 3.00 Steve Macdonald

#### CLASSIC FM

5.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes 6.35 Radio Review 7.00 BBC 1 7.30 Middle East News 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.00 Concerto 9.30 Concerto 10.00 Concerto 10.30 Concerto 11.00 Concerto 11.30 Concerto 12.00 Concerto 1.00pm Concerto 1.30 Concerto 2.00pm Concerto 2.30 Concerto 3.00 Concerto 3.30 Concerto 4.00 Concerto 4.30 Concerto 5.00 Concerto 5.30 Concerto 6.00 Concerto 6.30 Concerto 7.00 Concerto 7.30 Concerto 8.00 Concerto 8.30 Concerto 9.

THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 6 1997

ppled by  
Hoch

beaten 4 and 3 by the  
id champion, performance  
set a whole new level  
sents played great role.  
The front row, a  
against Greg Norman  
5 and 4 victory, solid performance  
all I was hitting the  
through

injured

the Gray

with a suspended

game of the last

on Saturday, Fe

Wind, Sophie

against Paul

a first-half head

heir point

must be great

in losing in over-

nata writes. Their

Monday was

the extra period.

Manchester

Scots Eagles

killed

Leduc, the

in race upstages

through the

to have. Mai

returned to

the interplanetary

was presented

by the

ing well

Croatia Open

Košice) was

by Sydney Interna-

which is

watcher sta-

of the place that

overnment will be

h spirits

of Japan with

the prestigious

and handi-

the four-ja

and H-13

olympic Games, e

and the

the Marshall Islands

land

David Se

run vint

sunday interne-

initially first

real fitter

to all

etting best

1 success

success

with the ad

in the final

in a wide

to be in

in our

to set off

ing ro

# Du Maurier dominated by Diana's Danvers

There is good news and, just for once, more good news. Let's take the good news first, shall we? Diana Rigg was on top form in last night's *Rebecca* (ITV). After two rather indifferent outings recently, first in *Moll Flanders* and then in the execrable *Suzanne and Delilah*, she needed something to restore morale and Mrs Danvers was definitely it. A more bewitching figure cannot have stalked the corridors of Manderley before.

As I recall, the word "menace" means something rather different in du Maurier's family code, secretly signifying attractiveness. In which case Rigg's Mrs Danvers was "menacing" in every sense of the word. Sinister, of course, as she prowled silently around the west wing but still showing enough signs of fiercely repressed beauty to add a whole new dimension to her obsession with dead Rebecca. "I feel her... everywhere," she

shuddered, caressing the first Mrs de Winter's wardrobe in a very un-housekeeper-like way. I didn't dream of Manderley last night, but tonight, well, fingers crossed.

That famous first line had no part to play in Arthur Hopcroft's two-part adaptation, which concludes tonight. Instead, the privilege fell to Fay Dunaway, looking far too good to play faded beauty with any conviction, but still having a ball as the wealthy Mrs Van Hooper. It was 1927 and Monte Carlo was no longer to her liking. "Not a single well-known personality — what's happening to this place?" Enter Maxim de Winter... which brings me to the more good news: *Rebecca*, at least on the evidence of this first helping, was wonderful.

True, there were one or two awkward moments, particularly after de Winter (Charles Dance) and his young bride (Emilia Fox) returned to Manderley and the

mood swung suddenly from romance (of the no, no... don't do it variety) to melodrama (oops, no later); Mrs Danvers, we knew, would give the new Mrs De W a hard time, but when Frith Butler and even the nice estate manager start hanging on about the fragrant Rebecca you knew we had said goodbye to anything resembling the real world. But once you make that transition, helped by the inevitable appearance of sinister black olskins talking with a thick West Country accent, it's fine.

Dance and Fox gave exemplary performances, particularly during the vital early wooing scenes, with Dance displaying just enough fatal charm to make up for de Winter's sudden bouts of rage and Fox cleverly combining grand passion with naivey.

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

When Frank Crawley (Tom Chaloner) later told her that "kindness, sincerity and modesty are worth all the beauty in the world" you knew exactly what he was talking about. Tonight's conclusion should not be missed, if only to discover whether we see anything more of Rebecca than Lucy Conn's somily captivating eyes.

If *Rebecca* put a big hole in the audience for *Ballykissangel*

(BBC1), I shall celebrate with a modest cheer. I'm right off Irish whimsy at the moment and *Ballykissangel*, as the locals have it, is one of the main reasons why. The charm is so contrived, the stories so astonishingly inconsequential.

Last night's opener was written by the man who created the series, Kieran Mooney, and was a cliff-hanger of truly pebbly-like proportions. Would *Assumpta* (Dervla Kirwan) kiss Father Clifford (Stephen Tompkinson) in the village play, or Enda O'Sullivan, the Beno-esque former rock star who has just moved into the area? Give up? Here's a clue: there are an awful lot more episodes to come.

The comic subplots were similarly sophisticated stuff, consisting of a soprano Irish siren, a blocked farmyard drain and a golf-playing bishop who booked into Assumpta's hotel and then — yes, yes — booked out again. You whimsy if you want to! I know many of you do, but I'm off. Wake me when *Hamlet Macbeth* comes back.

*Hamlet Macbeth*

comes back.

Saturday night brought us

minor retrospective, Alan

Ventob had been to New York to

interview David Bowie and came

back with so little material that the

last night's opener was

written by the man who created the series, Kieran Mooney, and was a cliff-hanger of truly pebbly-like proportions. Would *Assumpta* (Dervla Kirwan) kiss Father Clifford (Stephen Tompkinson) in the village play, or Enda O'Sullivan, the Beno-esque former rock star who has just moved into the area? Give up? Here's a clue: there are an awful lot more episodes to come.

The comic subplots were similarly

sophisticated stuff, consisting of a

soprano Irish siren, a blocked

farmyard drain and a golf-playing

bishop who booked into Assumpta's hotel and then — yes, yes —

booked out again. You whimsy if

you want to! I know many of you

do, but I'm off. Wake me when

*Hamlet Macbeth* comes back.

In style it was like watching a

very bad film about dying

seem really quite appealing.

*Goodbye My Love* (ITV). Saturday

had superb performances from

Robert Lindsay and, particularly,

Gwen Humble, as the

euthanasia campaigner, Derek

Humphry, and his second wife,

Ann. But as a dramatisation of real

events (chronology changed, dialogue created, the normal stuff)

it never convinced me that this new

school pretension did not end with

the departure of Brian Eno.

Bowie started it with "synthesising" and "refracting" artistic sources. But Ventob, drawing on all those meetings that made him Controller of BBC2 and then BBC1, hit back with "intuitive" and "otherness". Bowie, however, playing a clever two-trump card with "mimical eclecticism" followed by "philosophic areas of fragmentation". Time for another record, I thought.

It was the sort of programme

that made a long film about dying

seem really quite appealing.

*Goodbye My Love* (ITV). Saturday

had superb performances from

Robert Lindsay and, particularly,

Gwen Humble, as the

euthanasia campaigner, Derek

Humphry, and his second wife,

Ann. But as a dramatisation of real

events (chronology changed, dialogue created, the normal stuff)

it never convinced me that this new

school pretension did not end with

the departure of Brian Eno.

It was the sort of programme

that made a long film about dying

seem really quite appealing.

*Goodbye My Love* (ITV). Saturday

had superb performances from

Robert Lindsay and, particularly,

Gwen Humble, as the

euthanasia campaigner, Derek

Humphry, and his second wife,

Ann. But as a dramatisation of real

events (chronology changed, dialogue created, the normal stuff)

it never convinced me that this new

school pretension did not end with

the departure of Brian Eno.

It was the sort of programme

that made a long film about dying

seem really quite appealing.

*Goodbye My Love* (ITV). Saturday

had superb performances from

Robert Lindsay and, particularly,

Gwen Humble, as the

euthanasia campaigner, Derek

Humphry, and his second wife,

Ann. But as a dramatisation of real

events (chronology changed, dialogue created, the normal stuff)

it never convinced me that this new

school pretension did not end with

the departure of Brian Eno.

It was the sort of programme

that made a long film about dying

seem really quite appealing.

*Goodbye My Love* (ITV). Saturday

had superb performances from

Robert Lindsay and, particularly,

Gwen Humble, as the

euthanasia campaigner, Derek

Humphry, and his second wife,

Ann. But as a dramatisation of real

events (chronology changed, dialogue created, the normal stuff)

it never convinced me that this new

school pretension did not end with

the departure of Brian Eno.

It was the sort of programme

that made a long film about dying

seem really quite appealing.

*Goodbye My Love* (ITV). Saturday

had superb performances from

Robert Lindsay and, particularly,

Gwen Humble, as the

euthanasia campaigner, Derek

Humphry, and his second wife,

Ann. But as a dramatisation of real

events (

